

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3723.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1899.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

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The Right Hon. LORD WELBY of ALLINGTON, G.C.B.
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The FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the SOCIETY will be held at CLIFFORD'S INN HALL, FLEET STREET, E.C., on THURSDAY, March 9, at 8 P.M.
Tickets will be sent on application.
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16, Clifford's Inn, Fleet Street, E.C.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS.

REMBRANDT EXHIBITION.
LAST WEEK.
Will CLOSE on SATURDAY NEXT, March 11.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS.—NOTICE to ARTISTS.—THE DAYS for RECEIVING PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, &c., are FRIDAY, SATURDAY, and MONDAY, March 24, 25, and 27, and for SCULPTURE, TUESDAY, March 28.—Forms and Labels can be obtained from the Academy during the month of March on receipt of a stamped and directed envelope.

PARIS CORRESPONDENT OPEN to ENGAGEMENT.—Address T. S. E., care of Willing's, 162, Piccadilly, W.

INDEXING by B.A. (Camb.). 6½d. an hour or offer. Testimonials to efficiency.—S. V. J., care of Mr. Houliat, 28, Uxbridge Road, W.

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CARLISLE SCHOOL of SCIENCE and ART.

ASSISTANT ART MASTER.
The Art and Technical Committee are prepared to receive applications for the appointment of an ASSISTANT ART MASTER for the above School, who will be required to devote such time to Teaching as is deemed expedient by the Art Master.
Candidates must hold Certificates Group I. and have had some experience in Teaching. Salary to commence at 70l. per annum. Applications, stating age, qualifications, &c., with prints or copies of not more than three recent testimonials, to be sent to the undersigned on or before TUESDAY, March 14. Candidates will not be required to commence duties until after the examinations.
ARCHIBALD SPARKE, Secretary.
School of Science and Art, Tullie House, Carlisle.

HARRIS INSTITUTE, PRESTON.

The Council of the Harris Institute require the services of a Gentleman to act as HEAD MASTER of the ART SCHOOL. He must hold the Art Master's Certificate, and be competent to take Advanced Work in Anatomy, Design, Ornament, &c. He will be required to devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and to act generally under the Principal. He must enter on his duties in September next. Commencing salary 300l. per annum.
Applications, with copies of four recent testimonials and references, to be forwarded not later than March 16 to
T. R. JOLLY, Secretary and Registrar.

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Applications to be made on forms to be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Mr. W. HODGKIN, B.A., The Boys' School, Cowper Street, City Road, E.C., to whom they should be returned not later than April 12, 1899.

THE COUNTESS of HUNTINGDON'S COLLEGE, CHESHUNT.

There will be a VACANCY in the PROFESSORSHIP of PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, and LOGIC after JUNE NEXT. The Professor will also be expected to take some part in the Elementary Arts Work of the College—Mathematics and Science, up to the Matriculation Standard, preferred.
Testimonials may be sent, on or before March 31, to the Rev. R. LOTTIE, M.A., 14, Victoria Road, Clapham Common, London, S.W.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of SOUTH WALES and MONMOUTHSHIRE.

(A Constituent College of the University of Wales.)
The Council invites applications for the PROFESSORSHIP of ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE.
Applications and testimonials should be sent, on or before TUESDAY, April 25, 1899, to the undersigned, from whom further particulars may be obtained.
J. AUSTIN JENKINS, B.A., Secretary and Registrar.
University College, Cardiff, February 10, 1899.

UNIVERSITY of GLASGOW.

CHAIR of PATHOLOGY.
The CURATORS of the CHAIR of PATHOLOGY of the UNIVERSITY of GLASGOW will, in the month of APRIL, proceed to appoint a PROFESSOR to occupy the above Chair, now VACANT. The Professor will be required to enter on his duties on April 25, from which date the appointment will take effect.
The normal salary of the Chair is fixed by Ordinance at 1,100l.
The Class Room and Laboratory are in connexion with the Pathological Department in the Western Infirmary, from which material is supplied to Professor and Students.
Each Applicant should lodge with the undersigned, who will furnish any further information required, twenty copies of his application and twenty copies of any testimonials he may desire to submit, on or before March 24.
ALAN E. CLAPPERTON,
Secretary of the Glasgow University Court.
91, West Regent Street, Glasgow.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

The Council will shortly proceed to appoint a QUAIN STUDENT in ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE. Candidates (who must have attended for at least Three Terms one or more Classes in English at the College) should forward their applications as to reach the Secretary not later than the first post on SATURDAY, March 18. They should give particulars of their College Course, and (if any) distinctions gained at the Universities or elsewhere. The value of the Studentship is 150l. per annum. The usual appointment is for Three Years, to which an extension of Two Years may be made.
The Quain Student shall, under the guidance and supervision of the Quain Professor, assist throughout the Session in the Teaching of the English Department, and he shall be encouraged and have facilities afforded him to carry on original work.
T. GREGORY FOSTER, Acting Secretary.

ROYAL INDIAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE,

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WEYMOUTH COLLEGE.

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WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—LECTURE TO-MORROW (SUNDAY) MORNING, by Dr. STANTON COIT, on the 'PERSONALITY of JESUS CHRIST,' 11 A.M.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That on WEDNESDAY, 26th of April next, the Senate will proceed to elect Examiners in the following Departments for the Year commencing July 1st, 1899:—

Examinerships.	Salaries.	Present Examiners.
ARTS AND SCIENCE. (Kach.)		
Two in Latin.....	180l.	Prof. J. P. Postgate, M.A. Litt D. Vacant.
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Two in Music.....	50l.	S. H. Leonard, Esq. M.A. B.C.L. Vacant.

The Examiners above named are eligible, and intend to offer themselves for re-election. Candidates must send in their names to the Registrar, with any attestation of their qualifications they may think desirable, on or before TUESDAY, March 26th. It is particularly desired by the Senate that no application of any kind be made to its individual members. By order of the Senate, University of London, F. VICTOR DICKINS, M.B. B.Sc., Registrar. Burlington Gardens, W., March 1st, 1899.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1899.

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LITERATURE

Memoirs of the Verney Family from the Restoration to the Revolution, 1660-1696. Compiled from Letters and illustrated by the Portraits at Claydon House by Margaret M. Verney. (Longmans & Co.)

THOUGH equally well edited and as carefully commented upon, the letters in this, the last, volume of the Verney memoirs differ much from their predecessors. The book is equally interesting, perhaps, to the student of social history; it may be found even more useful, as it relates to the manners of times which are more obscure than those of the period of the Civil War; but it lacks much of the dramatic interest of the previous volumes. However we may estimate the men, and the causes for which they struggled, of the time between the impeachment of Strafford and the Restoration, we cannot fail to admit that the issues were of vast importance not for the moment only, but for all succeeding time. There were not a few great souls on both sides who, amid the fog of contending opinions, strove manfully for what in the dim light appeared to them the public welfare; but it is impossible to say this for the Parliament that took things in hand when the king came back. The decay in moral sentiment which followed is currently attributed to a reaction against Puritanism. That this was one of the causes cannot be questioned, but, at the same time, that it has been very much exaggerated does not admit of doubt. The extreme rigorism sometimes attributed to the Puritans is in a great measure a dream of playwrights and novelists, although, of course, it existed among a few fanatics, even as similar perversions of ethical principle do to-day. To explain what were the true causes of the great moral decay which undoubtedly did take place at this time would require not only much thought, but a wide and minute knowledge of events which had occurred before the Stuarts came into England. One cause of recent date may possibly have been the terrible disappointment endured by all good men

when they found, as it seemed to them, that all the faith, energy, and self-sacrifice of twenty years had been wasted. The strangest thing is that Charles II.—worthless as he was—never lost his popularity. In our own days kings, presidents, and others called upon to rule have meted out to them the same or a harder measure than those who have fewer responsibilities; but then we seem to see that, not as a figure of speech, but as a reality, the king's conduct was measured by a different moral standard from that of his subjects. Evidence of this is furnished by Dryden and other poets, but it is strange to come across the same feeling, though expressed with more moderation, in the letters of those who, we have every reason for believing, were persons of upright mind and conduct. We can understand the profligacy of the Court being condoned or winked at, but it is passing strange to find that the wretched misgovernment of the country did not produce a storm of indignation great enough to be dangerous to the monarchy. Our foreign relations throughout the whole reign were disgraceful, and the peril from the Dutch on more than one occasion was extreme. As the editor has it, "The Puritans might put down roast beef and mince pies, and the time-honoured festivities of the season, but naval defeats were not wont to be part of the Christmas fare they provided for England." As, however, newspapers as we now know them did not exist in those days, it may be argued that few persons were aware of what had been taking place for a considerable time after the events occurred, and then the intelligence lost much of its force from coming in by dribblets; but this contention, weak as it is, cannot be made to apply to the dastardly and cruel murders and assaults which were shamefully frequent. Such atrocities as these and the burglaries and highway robberies which were happening all over the country must, one would have thought, have shocked the conscience or appealed to the selfish instincts of every one; but none of them appears to have done so. There was, it must be admitted, a sort of romance in the career of a man who robbed on the highway which made even honest men feel a kind of sympathy for him such as our great-grandfathers cherished, with much less excuse, for the exploits of Dick Turpin, Jack Sheppard, and Snowdon Dunhill. Many of those who took to the road were of gentle blood; they had been troopers during the war, or young men brought up under the tutelage of old soldiers. There were, as the editor points out,

"brave spirits among them, who, in a simpler age, might have 'stopped the mouths of lions,' or, in our own, would have found vent for their energies in African deserts, or in Arctic snows; but....weary of risking their lives in being defeated by the Dutch, and sick of waiting for arrears of pay, they threw themselves into reckless and desperate courses, making war against a society which had refused to receive them as allies."

This is no doubt an explanation of the outburst of crime, but it by no means excuses the state of things which brought it about. The Government was strong enough, had it possessed the will, to have made at all events the great highways safe for passengers.

It showed energy enough when it was, or deemed itself to be, threatened, as witness the stern justice dealt out after the rising at Farnley Wood, and the cruel though intermittent persecutions under which Protestant Nonconformists and Roman Catholics suffered.

John Verney was, we gather, not by any means an imaginative person. He is described as "sensible and prosaic"; yet in a letter of his, written in 1679, he tells a story of a couple of highwaymen who robbed a countryman, but, unfortunately for themselves, left him the horse on which he was riding. The brave fellow pursued them with hue and cry, and they were overtaken;

"but they, being very stout, fought their way through Islington and all along the road to this town's end, where, after both their swords were broke in their hands and they unhorsed, they were seized and carried to Newgate."

And then he concludes, "'Tis a great pity such men should be hanged," without one word of sympathy for the poor countryman, who may well have been robbed of his all by these mean scoundrels, who did not even follow the laws of the trade as it was said to be practised by their less unworthy companions, but were not ashamed to fight two to one.

It seems to have been almost as difficult to get one of these criminals hanged, even when convicted, if he had the good fortune to be connected with a powerful family, as it was to bring a Chancery suit to an end a hundred years later. Notwithstanding the powerful Verney interest, two family connexions—Turville and Hals—came at last to death on the gallows. Turville may have been a cousin by courtesy only, but Richard Hals was undoubtedly a blood relation of Sir Ralph and the later Verneys, as he was descended—by her first marriage—from old Lady Verney, the mother of the "stainless knight" who bore the royal standard at Edge Hill. Of this Dick something nearly approaching a biography may be made out. It is an instructive picture of one of the large class of desperadoes who were permitted to prey upon society. His adventures are amusing also, if we dissociate them, as we do the tales of Boccaccio, from all notions of right and wrong, a feat he was eminently successful in performing on his own behalf. From the beginning he seems to have been a thoroughly worthless scamp, at first hanging about the Inns of Court, but never thinking of paying attention to study. Next he turns up in Newgate in irons, and, as he says, in much danger. If we may take his word, he had been betrayed—sold by some one to the keeper for a hundred pounds. Soon after this he had an interview with the Duke of York and Prince Rupert, and then—in consequence of this audience, as it is fair to assume—served in the fleet against the Dutch; but after his discharge from the navy he seems to have devoted himself deliberately to highway robbery. In 1669 warrants were out for his arrest, and had he not

"leaped out of a window 2 storeys high, leaving his horse and his clothes behind, he had been taken. Warrants are out for him and many more; the king will pardon none but such as come in and discover and convict their fellows."

The king may have said this, but the highwaymen, as well as every one else, knew full well that, except in special circumstances, the threat did not apply to those of good condition. Soon after this narrow escape Dick Verney was in the gaol at Exeter, for no offence, as he says, but he evidently thought that a Devonshire jury would take a different view of the matter, for he wrote to Sir Ralph that "I have written to my cossen, your brave sonn, for a whindinge sheete, that in itt I may with my boddy winde in the eternall remembrance of his aboundinge spirit." The next year he was in Newgate, condemned with others to die, and admitting the justice of his sentence; but he was, notwithstanding this, reprieved through the intercession of his relatives. This, however, did not free him from the risk of capital punishment for other offences for which he had not been tried. If we may trust the information he communicated to Sir Ralph, who personally appears to have stood apart from these disgraceful intrigues, resort was had to bribery of the most flagrant kind. Soon after we hear of his "happy escape out of prison"; whether this was managed by means of a golden key supplied by his friends, or due to his own subtlety, there appear to be no means of knowing. The scamp was not destitute of the animal virtue of courage; and it may well be that he bided his time and made a successful dash for freedom. He was received with lavish hospitality by his friends, and in return had no difficulty in promising to serve in the Low Countries. Their simplicity was such that once more they believed him. "I am not sent away naked," he says, "but with Sword, Clothes, and money." Writing to a loving aunt who had always befriended him, he assures her that in foreign parts he hoped "to acquire honour or a grave, or both." Whether he ever crossed the sea on this occasion is very doubtful; if he did, he soon returned. The charms of the war he had so long waged against society were too strong for him to resist; and he soon re-entered upon his old courses. In 1674 he was awaiting death in Chelmsford Gaol, and the Essex clergy were labouring hard to make him clear his conscience, before he died, by betraying his accomplices. He gave way "to win his salvation," as he pretended; but even after this his great friends had to step in to make his escape from the halter sure.

We cannot follow the career of the reprobate further. He was hanged at Tyburn in the spring of 1685. Perhaps at the last his friends were wearied out with protecting him, and some of the warmest-hearted among them were dead. Edmund Verney sorrowed for him. He called to mind his "few virtues," and said, "I wish I could have saved him"; but it must have been a great relief to all the kindred when their responsibilities were ended.

The chief, and by far the most interesting, figure which passes before the reader in these pages is that of Sir Ralph Verney. He had been a member of the Long Parliament and had served in its army when the war broke out, but he was a mild, even-tempered man of conservative tendencies, and consequently fell into many troubles as time went on. He rejoiced with others of his old friends and comrades when the

Restoration was accomplished, but there is no evidence that he was carried away by the wild delirium which on that occasion passed over the land and was in its results so disastrous. He seems to have preserved every letter that reached him, and the world owes in a great degree, if not entirely, these highly interesting memoirs to his thoughtfulness. Unhappily but few of his own letters have reached our time, so that we have of him but a slight portrait. This is the more to be regretted as all that is known of him is pleasing. He was a good father and a kind friend, with a love for that profuse, old-fashioned hospitality which must have gone far to mitigate the monotony of rural existence when roads were bad and it was not safe to travel without an armed retinue. His interest in trees, fruits, flowers, and animals was no passing fancy, but a lifelong pleasure to him, and in his time Claydon must have been a delightful place for a protracted visit. Though friendly to the Crown, he was strongly opposed to the proceedings of James II. He was returned for Buckingham in the Parliament chosen after the death of Charles II., and when the time came served in that of the Convention. His death took place in September, 1696. He lived long enough to see the man he regarded as the deliverer of his country firmly settled upon the throne. His son Edmund was not by any means so marked a character as Sir Ralph, though he possessed much of his father's kindness of heart and good sense. He married early in life Elizabeth Abell, the daughter and heiress of William Abell, of East Claydon, a London merchant who had bought that estate. Abell's father had been a Royalist, and, to say the least, acted with singular indiscretion by aiding the king in his illegal attempt to tax the City companies. Such a match cannot have been in some respects a pleasing thing for Sir Ralph to contemplate. The politics of the two families were widely different, and family pride (or instinct of race, as in his case we should prefer calling it) must have suggested many misgivings. Edmund was of far more illustrious lineage than the merchant's daughter, but, on the other hand, the estates joined. So Sir Ralph, apparently, did not oppose the alliance, and when it had taken place he received the bride with the affectionate attention of a father; nevertheless, the marriage was a very unhappy one, for the young wife soon developed unmistakable symptoms of madness, or, if that be too strong a term, of what people of her own day would have called "melancholia." Hers was a pitiable case, as when her brain was clear she seems to have been a good and gentle creature. Had she lived now, it is possible that something might have been done for her relief, even if cure had been impracticable; but from the details we have, it is clear that the money spent on physicians was entirely wasted. She had, however, at times long lucid intervals. It is pleasant to learn that her husband and his father understood her condition so far as to treat her with uniform kindness. This may seem surprising when it is called to mind that even in the earlier years of this century lunatics were not uncommonly compelled to endure revolting harshness.

We gain incidentally a good deal of information as to the general treatment of the sick. For example, in 1686 Edmund Verney was much exercised in his mind regarding his father's health: "He hath been Blooded, Vomited, Blistered, Cupt & Scarified & hath 3 Physicians with him, besides Apothecary & Chirurgian." He says, no doubt in much surprise, "hee continues still very weak." The old knight, however, lived ten years longer—a convincing proof of a robust constitution.

The Adventures of Philip. By W. M. Thackeray. With Biographical Introduction by his Daughter, Anne Ritchie. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

THACKERAY himself has pointed out that 'Philip' was written under very different conditions from his straitened circumstances when he composed its prologue:—

"Think of the beginning of the story of the 'Little Sister' in the 'Shabby Genteel Story' twenty years ago, and the wife ill, and the publisher refusing me 15*l.*, who owed me 13*l.* 10*s.*, and *The Times*, to which I applied for a little more than five guineas for a week's work, refusing to give me more—and all that money difficulty ended, God be praised, and an old gentleman sitting in a fine house like the hero at the end of the story."

So he wrote to his mother in July, 1862, and a letter of a few years earlier is also quoted, from which we may gather some details of the "hero's" success:—

"If I can work for three years now I shall have put back my patrimony and a little over, after thirty years of ups and downs. I made a calculation the other day of receipts in the last twenty years, and can only sum up about 32,000*l.* of money actually received, for which I have values or disbursements of 13,000*l.*, so that I haven't spent at the rate of more than 1,000*l.* a year for twenty years. The profits of the lectures figure as the greatest of the receipts, 9,500*l.*; 'Virginians,' six; 'Vanity Fair,' only two. Three more years, please the Fates, and the girls will have the eight or ten thousand apiece that I want for them; and we mustn't say a word against the filthy lucre, for I see the use and comfort of it every day more and more. What a blessing not to mind about bills!"

Remembering Anthony Trollope's honest indignation with Thackeray for not working more steadily, one is constrained to smile, reflecting that, after all, the author of 'Pendennis' turned his wayward genius to a very fair material account. Everybody knows why he wanted the money, and he is the last person to whom it could possibly be grudged; but it would be affectation to pity him in that matter. Yet he pitied himself a good deal, and we can sympathize with his anxiety, for plainly prudence and forethought were not his by nature, and the cares of a father, a beautifully loving father, did not sit lightly on him.

The present introduction, however, is not concerned mainly with money matters. It treats of an episode more important in those days than it is now—the floating of a new magazine. When Thackeray started the *Cornhill*, and a shilling seemed such a low price that R. M. Milnes could write, "How you, the contributors, and the publishers are to be paid out of it is economically inconceivable," the counters of the booksellers were not stacked with numberless

periodicals, each more startling in enterprise than its predecessor, and the demand for novelty was not so insatiable as it unluckily is to-day. So far as one can judge, the new editor had very little further conception of his duties than the desirability of securing good work, and of treating his contributors, accepted or rejected, with kindness and consideration.

He did, however, start with the idea of developing one "new principle": "he thought that every man, whatever his profession, might be able to tell something about it which no one else could say, provided the writer could write at all; and he wanted to utilize this element." Sir Henry Thompson gave an account of "the idea" to Mrs. Ritchie:—

"So," said Thackeray, "I want you to describe cutting off a leg as a surgical operation, and do it so that a ship's captain at sea, who had not a doctor on board, would be able to take a sailor's leg off by reading your description.".....The article finally appeared with a new title. When your father had read it, it struck him that the paper he had asked for might be somewhat painful, so he wrapped it up in something sweet for the British public to take, and called it 'Under Chloroform.'

The literary public was small enough in those days for a man of Thackeray's reputation to float a magazine, whether or no he had any particular aptitude for the work. The best writers were not then badgered out of their lives by agents and editors, so that they gladly flocked round their genial chief, and we find, in fact, that Thackeray's position increased his pleasant relations with his most valued contemporaries, though, of course, he met with difficulties, and was driven often to exercise his editorial authority against the grain.

It was not to be expected, however, that he would persevere in the work very long. Even in 1860 such a post meant severe, continuous work, made up of unpleasant details, and Thackeray, it is evident, had not hardened himself sufficiently. "Day and night" he heard "that sad voice crying for help," and it well-nigh broke his kindly heart. The necessity for punctuality, too, worried him, and Mrs. Ritchie has reproduced a very humorous drawing of this period, called 'W. M. Thackeray taking Time by the Forelock,' which tells its own story of his sturdy struggles in that direction.

Fortunately there was no occasion for him to remain editor when he no longer wished to do so; and thus it happens that these impressions of his reign are mostly pleasant, including an illustrated letter from Landseer and much interesting correspondence with Carlyle, Motley, Charles Macaulay, Mrs. Browning, R. M. Milnes, and others. It was through his desire to draw for the *Cornhill*, also, that Frederick Walker obtained an introduction to Thackeray, and afterwards came to work for 'Philip,' to the author's undisguised gratification.

Altogether it is a most attractive and fascinating picture that Mrs. Ritchie in this volume has sketched of Thackeray the editor.

French Enterprise in Africa: the Personal Narrative of Lieut. Hourst of his Exploration of the Niger. Translated by Mrs. Arthur Bell. (Chapman & Hall.)

To have performed successfully the feat of traversing vast districts peopled by suspicious and predatory tribes without having resort to force reflects the highest credit on the leader of this Niger expedition and his companions, and their tact and self-restraint in dealing with the warlike Tuaregs and others entitle them to cordial praise. Few French expeditions in Africa have failed to come to blows with the barbarous or semi-civilized populations with whom they found themselves in contact, too often with disastrous results to themselves and to those following them, and it will always redound to the honour of Lieut. Hourst and his comrades that they were able to avoid a conflict even in very trying circumstances.

Lieut. Hourst, of course, never fails to see the malign hand of perfidious Albion in cases where it is impossible that any Englishman could have raised obstacles to the progress of the French expedition; for instance, he expresses his conviction that the officials of the Royal Niger Company incited the natives on the banks of that river to obstruct his passage, although, at the same time, he makes it clear that the Company was not aware of the approach of the French explorers. This indiscriminating denunciation of everything British is a serious blot on a creditable narrative, which is noteworthy by its entire absence of high-flown language, too common with French explorers.

The translator admits that the author, in spite of his evident bias against the English, is unable to deny that he was kindly treated and entertained "by the individual members of the Royal Niger Company with whom he came in contact; his only wish, as he naively remarks, is that some of the warm-hearted men who welcomed him back to civilization had belonged to his own nationality"; yet chaps. ix. and x. of the book are filled with attacks on the Company and all its works. But, severe as the author is on British "rivals," he is even more so on French ministers and officials, whose indecision and procrastination he strongly condemns, as he also does the strange neglect of expeditions after they had, in spite of delays and difficulties, been launched on their arduous task.

The comments on the policy pursued by the French authorities in the Sudan are quite as outspoken:—

"We really are an extraordinary people; we seem to expect that the Tuaregs will come and throw themselves into our arms of their own accord, without our having employed any conciliatory or coercive means to induce them to do so.....Taking into account the apathy with which commercial questions are treated, I do not yet foresee the day when amends will be made for the imposts now levied by force, by the granting of new rights of way, and the supplying of new means of transport."

He adds:—

"Nor have I seen reason since to change my opinion, for to talk of colonial questions in France is to preach in the desert."

The expedition originated under the auspices of Col. Monteil and M. Delcassé, then Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in October, 1893. Lieut. Hourst appears to have suggested it in 1888; "but," he says,

"it is really ten years since a similar plan was proposed by another, and that other my venerated chief, my friend, and my master in all things connected with the Sudan, Naval Lieutenant Davoust."

Previous attempts to descend the Niger to the sea had failed. In 1888 Davoust and Hourst were actually ready to do so, but "just as we were going to start came an order that we were to do nothing," and after nearly a year's delay in a most unhealthy spot, the eighteen white men were reduced to five. Even after the author had made his preparations in 1895, orders were received to suspend his expedition and to disband the men he had enlisted, and he himself was recalled to France in May of that year; but whilst halting at Bafulabé, on his way to Senegal, he received a telegram from the new Governor of the Sudan, "The Colonial Minister resumes the original project of your expedition."

The exploring party was composed of four Europeans, including a doctor, and twenty coolies (? Laptots, or native sailors). Later, at Timbuktu, the natives were increased to twenty-eight by the engagement of interpreters, &c. Père Hacquart, of the Frères Blancs, to whose merit and cordial co-operation the author pays a just tribute, also joined the expedition. In Timbuktu Hourst met Bechir Uld Mbirikat, who gave him "a valuable bit of advice," which he

"immediately followed, without, however, fully realizing its importance at the time.....This counsel, perhaps, contributed more than anything we did to the success of our expedition. 'Tell them,' said Bechir, 'that you are the son of Abdul Kerim.' Now Abdul Kerim was the Arab name assumed by Dr. Barth during his journey,.....and if Barth had not done as he did the negroes and Tuaregs would never have remembered his European name,.....and I should not have been able to solve all difficulties, however great, and emerge safely from every situation, however embarrassing, by the simple words 'I am the son, or rather the nephew, of Abdul Kerim.'"

The Tuaregs were first encountered in their own land at Kunta. The writer deprecates any attempt at conquering them, and recommends that a *modus vivendi* should be arrived at, as the Awellimiden clan alone is able to put 20,000 men into the field. They are monogamists, but their women do not hide their faces, as is usual among Mohammedans; on the other hand, the men are veiled, for which practice the reason is stated at pp. 223-4. The nephew is the heir, for reasons given, which prevail amongst many nations in Africa. It seems that

"one of their most characteristic [and at the same time detestable] peculiarities [is] their incorrigible love of begging. I know well enough that the poor fellows have nothing to depend upon but their flock and the produce of their fields, which are cultivated for them by the negroes, who are paid by a royalty on the results. Our arrival, laden with fine stuffs, wonderful glass beads, and all manner of gewgaws, must be turned to account as much as possible. Naturally, they exaggerated our

resources, and the word *ikfai* (give me) became a refrain dinned into our ears every day for months. I must add, however, that no Tuareg ever in my hearing enforced his begging by a threat. I gave often and I gave much, for my firm belief is, that the way for a traveller to succeed is to conciliate the natives and win the sympathy of the people through whose country he is passing. It is best for his own interests, and also those of future explorers, to be generous whenever it is possible, but he should never give against his will, or give anything but just what he himself chooses. I often yielded to respectful and courteous importunity, but would never have done so in compliance with a demand, which would have made a free gift appear like a compulsory tribute."

The natives grew more hostile as the expedition advanced, making warlike demonstrations on the right bank of the river, but they did not actually attack. The rapids also became more difficult and dangerous, especially at Ansongo. Many mishaps occurred to the leaky barges, which repeatedly struck on rocks and shoals, and received damage difficult to repair. However, at Fafa friendly documents were exchanged between Madiche, Amenokal of the Awellimiden Tuaregs, and the leader of the expedition.

At Say the explorers were compelled to make a prolonged sojourn, awaiting instructions which never came, and also the rising of the river to enable them to continue their adventurous voyage. In order to secure themselves from attack, they encamped on a small island, on which they constructed a fort, to which was given the name of Fort Archinard. They were constantly excited by false news and by rumours of intended attacks, which, however, never took place. At length, after a delay of five months, the rising of the river permitted them to continue their journey towards Bussa. Chaps. ix. and x., "From Say to Bussa" and "From Bussa to the Sea," are in many respects the most interesting in the book. The successful navigation of the swift-flowing river and its many dangerous and intricate rapids reflects the greatest credit on the intrepid explorers; but the author's account is again marred by his expression of almost fanatical hatred of the English. He writes:—

"It is very evident that the English have not lost time since last year..... Their plan is simply to delay us; yes, to delay us till it is impossible for our boats to pass the rapids. We should then be obliged to go by land through Burgu, which they know to be dangerous, and where they have no doubt some obstacles for us—one well-aimed shot, one well-planted poisoned arrow, and there would be an end of our expedition and its results."

At Rupia the younger women were quite nude, and the author thus explains it:—

"This was the first occasion on which I had seen people in a state of nudity in the Sudan, and this is the more remarkable as there are plenty of stuffs to be had cheap at Rupia. Noticing my astonishment, one of the beauties of the place made the following naïve remark to me, which I thought was really rather sensible: 'Why should we wear clothes? Are we so badly made that we need hide ourselves? All in good time. When we are old like our mothers we will make up for the loss of our physical advantages by well-made clothes, but not till then.'"

The passage of the Bussa rapids was probably the most critical incident of the

voyage. At Geba, below Bussa, the first English station was reached, and the Sierra Leone agent of the Royal Niger Company hastened to place himself at the disposal of the explorers, but Lieut. Hourst thought fit to decline his offer, "pending the arrival of the Governor of the station," who shortly made his appearance in the person of Capt. Carrol. Of this officer and of his hospitality and kindness the author speaks most highly—possibly because he was an Irishman. Major Festing is also spoken well of, and Lieut. Hourst is compelled to accept the assurances of those gentlemen, as well as those of Messrs. Drew and Wallace, that the Company was in no way responsible for the difficulties encountered at Bussa and Auru. Yet he seems either unable or unwilling to comprehend that the Company is the authorized and formally recognized representative of Great Britain on the Niger, or to understand its position in any way. He misrepresents both it and the British nation completely; and simply because he had to pay the Company, which is a trading corporation, for the towage of his barges from Lokoja to the sea he writes: "I don't therefore owe the members of the Company any more gratitude than I should the conductor of an omnibus in Paris when I have paid him my six sous." On the other hand, he eulogizes the agents of the Niger Coast Protectorate, presumably for the sole reason that they are in the service of the Imperial Government.

The writer's remarks on treaties are worthy of note, in face of the many disputes which have arisen about them between various European nations:—

"There exists a perfect mania in Africa for so-called treaties, a mania which would be harmless enough if it did not give an altogether false idea of colonial questions to French people, who are ignorant of the true conditions of the countries to which they refer. These treaties, in fact, very often prove bones of contention and litigation between different European powers, and thus attain an importance which but for this would be altogether wanting. In the partition of Africa, European governments began by imagining a kind of rule of the game, which consisted in giving to so-called treaties with native chiefs a certain fictitious value. We fell in with this idea, and it would be difficult to go back to the old belief that in a game of chance the ace is more powerful than the king. To follow the fashion, therefore, when we appear on the boards before international conferences, we have to be provided with plenty of trumps and to produce treaties with people, shady folk enough sometimes, whom we dub for the nonce kings and princes. Our treaties are as valid as those made by Germans, Spaniards, or Italians, and all of them added together, if truth and good faith were considered, would amount simply to zero, as I shall presently have to show. But when there is no special reason for pretending to the contrary, what is the good of having such endless diplomatic rigmaroles and such long-winded treaties, of which one of the contracting parties does not understand a single solitary sentence?"

The volume is profusely illustrated with photographs taken by the author himself, even amongst the rapids. They are mostly of great interest, so little being known of the regions and people visited by the expedition. There is an excellent map of

the course of the Niger from Timbuktu to Bussa. The translator has accomplished her work very creditably, but she is not always happy in rendering the author's meaning, especially in the matter of nautical terms, and at p. 57 she makes a slip, writing "deducting" in place of *deducing*. Although the index is fairly good, it might be improved.

The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer. Edited by Alfred W. Pollard, H. Frank Heath, Mark H. Liddell, and W. S. McCormick. (Macmillan & Co.)

THE work before us, edited by four of the leading English scholars of the younger generation, has had a chequered history. Originally proposed to Bradshaw, and passing from his hands to those of Dr. Furnivall, it passed again into those of the present editors; and while we must regret that neither Bradshaw nor Mr. Furnivall was able to produce an edition, we must recognize that their work and example have not been lost on their successors. The book is rightly dedicated to Dr. Furnivall, whose services to English literature have—owing to his occasional eccentricities—never been adequately recognized. It is not too much to say that if English philologists can hold up their heads in the society of their European fellows it is almost entirely due to his self-forgetting industry and perseverance. The founder and director of the Chaucer and the Early English Text societies has a claim upon the esteem of every Englishman who loves his mother tongue, which should make us forget the absurdities of the Browning Society.

Great as are Chaucer's claims on our reverence, some may find it hard to join in the general chorus which places him high upon the Olympus of song. His merits are apt to fall short of accomplishment. His best things are unfinished, and this alone serves to rule him out of the company of the great masters of all time. And his greatest work, the 'Canterbury Tales,' hardly substantiates the claims often put forward on his behalf. Compare the diffuseness of his 'Clerk's Tale' with the nervous concision of Boccaccio's 'Griselda.' Here the specific merits of the medium are almost inverted: the verse loses its power of exciting its hearer's imagination, of "raising him to the pitch," while the prose rises to grandeur and nobility without losing its tone of tender compassion. Only occasionally in these twenty thousand lines does Chaucer rise quite to the level of the few hundred lines in the Prologue which are true poetry. On the other hand, the little bits of landscape scattered through his poems, the joy in the fresh life of birds and beasts and flowers in the spring, however they may have been felt by him, and however novel they may have been to our somewhat sombre literature, were no new discovery to the French poets who were his literary forebears. His phrases and tones of thought, beautiful as they are, are but the catchwords of a whole school of lyric poetry. The merit of Chaucer, that which makes him truly the Father of English Poetry, is that through him our English literature establishes its claim on the wonderful and

beautiful literature of mediæval France, which, neglected and despised on its native soil for four centuries, has found in our race and tongue its truest disciples.

We welcome, therefore, most heartily the appearance of this memorable edition. For the first time the "new" reading public has the opportunity of reading what Chaucer really wrote as nearly as the resources of modern scholarship will allow. The intelligent appreciation of the great work he did for our language and our literature will inevitably increase. It may not be over sanguine to look forward to the day when the intelligent schoolgirl will have read more than two hundred lines of the Prologue to the 'Canterbury Tales,' and when our teaching authorities will have discovered some of the beauties of the 'Legend of Good Women' and of the 'House of Fame,' not to name Chaucer's earlier minor poems.

Turning to the text of the poems, we have to offer Mr. Pollard and his fellow-editors our congratulations on the success with which they have accomplished a task difficult in itself, and rendered doubly so by the fact that their edition comes so shortly after the monumental work of Prof. Skeat. As Mr. Pollard rightly says in his preface, the mere fact that their edition was begun in 1887, and that it had been arranged for so far back as 1864, would have been no excuse for the issue of a work which had no characteristic features of its own to recommend it. But, fortunately, the 'Globe Chaucer' possesses a well-marked character, differing widely from that of the 'Oxford Chaucer.' Prof. Skeat is eminent among living students of Chaucer; his judgment is usually trustworthy, his knowledge of the language is almost unlimited. But in the course of time a generation must arise with whom the dictum of the learned Professor will not have the weight it has with us, and the instinct which has often led him to the truth through a maze of opposing manuscripts will not always carry after him the crowd of his less gifted students. In the 'Globe Chaucer,' on the other hand, the editors have adopted a safer, if lowlier path, treating the manuscripts much in the way that they would have dealt with those of a classical author. In a word, their text is a scientific, not an eclectic one.

Unfortunately, too, for them, the editors could not differ so completely from their predecessor as Prof. Skeat from his; but their text in several respects is a distinct improvement. Notably is this the case in the 'Troilus and Criseyde,' where the earlier editor had based his text on the γ type of MS., while Prof. McCormick prints from a MS. of the β type, correcting from the MSS. of the α type, which represent Chaucer's first draft, and are more nearly literal translations of the 'Filostrato.' With the demonstration of the value of the α MSS. the task of emendation has been much simplified, the decision between doubtful readings facilitated, and the versification made more smooth. To notice even the more important instances would require a good deal of space; but it may be pointed out that the editor has had the courage to keep the "rouken" of v. 409 of the Caxton text. It has always struck us that "jouken" means

here "to cower," and is unsuitable to be used of Troilus. Moreover, he has restored the earlier reading in iv. 736 *seq.*, with the best effect, following Dr. Furnivall's suggestion. It is impossible, however, for a moment to entertain his theory that Chaucer pronounced *everre*, *neverre*, *levere*, &c., as *ev're*, *nev're*, *lev're*. It would require very complete evidence to prove this, and what evidence there is goes rather the other way. We understand that Prof. McCormick has since abandoned his contention.

Dr. Heath, who has edited the 'House of Fame,' the 'Parlement of Foules,' and the shorter pieces, has had more scope for the display of his ingenuity. He makes the valuable suggestion that the 'House of Fame' was probably laid aside after the completion of the first two books, and taken up again later in life. The arguments he brings forward are fairly convincing, and are supported by such evidence as the nature of the case allows. The choice of the Pepys MS. as the basis of his text, in spite of its incomplete state, seems to be fully justified. We had noted for quotation a number of lines, but a very casual reading will show the importance of the text; *e.g.*, in one of the last lines of Book III., 1062, Mr. Skeat, following Koch, reads, "And up the nose on hye caste," where Dr. Heath suggests, "And up the nose and yen caste." In the 'Parlement of Foules' his choice of a MS. again brings him into a happy opposition to Prof. Skeat. We note with pleasure the solution by Mr. Liddell of one of the Chaucerian *cruces* by the emendation of the *herenus* of the MS. to *serenus* in line 92 of the 'Compleynt unto Pite': "Have mercy on me, thou *serenus* quene."

Mr. Liddell has had the hardest task, for he is responsible for the text of the 'Boece,' of the 'Treatise on the Astrolabe,' and of the 'Romaunt of the Rose,' and it is not too much to say that his text of the first of these is indubitably the best yet published. We note a direct conflict of opinion between the editor and Prof. Skeat on the use made by Chaucer of Jehan de Meung's translation, and we are inclined to think Mr. Liddell has proved his case. The reference to Strode in the preface to the 'Astrolabe' shows, however, that Mr. Liddell had not seen the MS., which he wrongly describes (see Strode 'D.N.B.'). or he would not have attached the slightest importance to the note. The 'Romaunt of the Rose' bears witness to the sound critical sense of its editor by the large number of lines made intelligible for the first time.

Mr. Pollard has edited the 'Canterbury Tales' and the 'Legende of Good Women,' besides taking the general supervision of the work. It is perhaps regrettable that a uniform system of spelling was not laid down; but the slight divergences of the editors from each other are not of much importance, and that this is the most serious complaint against him is a high tribute to Mr. Pollard's powers. The book is wonderfully free from misprints—we have noticed only two—and the system of recording authorities and various readings is simple and clear. Perhaps our editor's critical judgment is at fault when he makes Chaucer say in the 'Merchant's Tale' that "sixty yeer a wyfles man was

hee," when the knight was but sixty years of age, and there is good MS. authority for "fourty"; but these slips are exceedingly rare. Space fails us to do more than notice the excellent work done on the text of the 'Legende.'

In conclusion it is right to congratulate "the onlie begetter of this booke," the great publishing firm of Macmillan; Dr. Furnivall and his compeers, who have published the MSS. of Chaucer and made a critical edition possible; and the editors, on its production. It reflects credit alike on English scholarship and English enterprise that a publisher should have been found to issue, and editors to prepare, an edition of Chaucer which the poorest lover of English literature may, and the richest must, add to his shelves.

The "Perverse Widow"; or, Memorials of the Boevey Family. By A. W. Crawley-Boevey. (Longmans & Co.)

It is not easy to ascertain the exact title of this handsome volume. That which we have printed is but a portion of the "half-title," which agrees neither with the title-page nor with the cover. This discrepancy results from the author's avowed endeavour to combine "a brief genealogical account of the Boeveys and other allied families, with a memoir of Mrs. Catharina Boevey (or Bovey), of Flaxley Abbey, Gloucestershire, the reputed original of Sir Roger de Coverley's 'perverse widow' in the *Spectator*, Nos. 2, 113, 118, written by Steele." The "perverse widow" herself has no connexion with the family beyond having been for some years the wife of a Boevey, by whom she had no children.

As for the other and larger portion of the work, it consists of pedigrees, admirably constructed and the fruit, clearly, of great labour, but of interest almost exclusively to the families concerned. It will doubtless appeal, as the author suggests, to those "who are interested in Huguenot history and genealogy," for the Boeveys were connected with several families which fled, like themselves, from the Low Countries to Protestant England. To the Huguenot Society, and above all to Mr. Moens and his unwearied labours, the author acknowledges his debt of gratitude. The important part that the Flemish Huguenots played in English economic life is still somewhat imperfectly realized, and all that tends to illustrate their careers deserves attention. Andrew Boevey, the first of the family found in England, appears to have been brought over from Courtrai, as an infant, about 1574. He was chief cashier to Sir Peter Van Lore, a leading financier among the refugees, and prospered so rapidly in what was virtually a banking business that he not only left a considerable fortune at his death in 1622, but provided so well for his sons William and James that they were able to purchase the Flaxley Abbey estate in 1647. James was the one distinguished man, as the author admits, of the family. His memoir, by John Aubrey, states that he retired from trade at the age of thirty-two, studied and wrote upon trade and commercial law, and became a student of the Inner Temple in 1660. Neither of the brothers resided at Flaxley, which passed from them,

by a family arrangement, to one of their sisters. But her heir bequeathed it to James's son William, the only Bovey who ever resided there (1684-1692). It was his childless widow Catherine, daughter of John Riches, a native of Amsterdam, who, being left Flaxley for life, enjoyed it for thirty-four years, and is claimed as Sir Roger de Coverley's "perverse widow." At her death the estate reverted, by special bequest, to the Crawleys, descended from another sister of the purchasers, although there were descendants in the male line of Andrew Bovey's elder son.

Mrs. Catherine "Bovey," as she spelt the name, was, without doubt, a remarkable woman, for whom her contemporaries had a high esteem. A devoted Churchwoman and a friend of Nonjurors, especially of Bishop Frampton, she was a pioneer locally of Sunday schools and one of the founders of the Three Choirs Festival. As to the claim that she was the original of Steele's "perverse widow," one can only say that if in this case the characters of fiction were taken from life—an assumption which should not be rashly made—a strong case has been made out for the identification here claimed. Mrs. Bovey was the subject of one of Steele's dedications, and she had certainly a confidante, like Sir Roger's "perverse widow." Nothing on this subject escapes the author's diligence, and he reprints in *extenso* the recriminations of Mr. Kerslake, bookseller and antiquary, against the *Athenæum*, in 1854-5, for not accepting as certain the autograph of the "perverse widow" in a copy of Pope's poems acquired by him. He succeeds in proving that Mrs. Bovey's mother was one of the Harwich Davalls, and not, as persistently stated, a daughter of Bernard de Gomme. On such points of genealogy, indeed, he attains marked success, and his pedigrees are well worked out. John Strype, historian of the Reformation, is here shown to be really a Van Strype, whose family had been Protestant refugees from Bois-le-Duc, and became silk throwers over here. The Bonnells, Butlers, Vanackers, Courtens, and others are traced to refugee founders, while the Courtens, who obtained a baronetcy in 1621, and intermarried with the aristocracy, are shown to have contributed a martyr to the Protestant faith in 1559. Attention may be called to a point of heraldry, as that art is now frequently discussed. The Crawleys, ancestors of the Crawley-Boveys, bore from 1634 to 1789 the coat granted to their kinsman Sir Francis Crawley in 1632. On the family succeeding to a baronetcy in 1789 these arms were overhauled, and a fresh coat, with material alterations, granted! This is a case, doubtless, typical of many others, due to the discontinuance of the heralds' visitations.

The volume, it is only right to add, has several illustrations, including an admirable portrait of Mrs. Catherine Bovey as a frontispiece, and is provided with exhaustive indices of persons and places. The only slip we have noticed in its pages is that Peter Kesterman, of St. Lawrence Pountney, a leading member of the Dutch congregation, appears as Peter "Hesterman."

NEW NOVELS.

Rupert Armstrong. By O. Shakespear. (Harper & Brothers.)

THE governess type of young woman, who joins to an outwardly unattractive person a clear perception of her friends' weaknesses, and employs the most uncompromising means of bringing them into line with her own ideas of righteousness, is one requiring nothing less than a Charlotte Brontë to make her tolerable to the reader. As a matter of fact, the heroine of Mrs. Shakespear's book is not actually a governess—she is the daughter of the man on whom she exercises her disagreeably restorative methods; but she is none the more attractive for that. Her father is a weak-minded artist who has allowed the Pre-Raphaelite leanings of his youth to be diverted by his beautiful, soulless wife, who has a preference for the garish portraits which find more favour and money from the public. Somewhat late in life the heroine undertakes to restore his former vision to her father and to make her mother understand what she thinks of her. The result is hardly successful, partly as it comes rather too late, and partly because the disagreeably bitter way in which the lady has set to work brings the renewed knowledge to the father and mother in a joyless, ineffective manner, which leaves them incapable of more than dying disillusioned. Nevertheless, in spite of some patent absurdities and crudenesses, Mrs. Shakespear's novel is redeemed from badness by her sincerity. The characters, and especially the heroine, are very real living beings, and not mere dolls animated to give point to a preconceived theory. The mistake, indeed, is rather the other way; the author has got some real persons, but she wastes them by making them do the wrong things—or, rather, she does not realize them fully, as she shows only the hard, unsympathetic side of their natures, and does not choose the right circumstances to make them fully comprehensible.

A Girl of the Klondyke. By Victoria Cross. (Scott.)

THIS is a commonplace book which will probably find its title its best passport to the reading public. The "girl" is a good, honest sort of creature, who drinks and gambles, but can none the less look after her sick neighbours and be a pleasant companion even to the "unco guid." The man whom she ultimately marries is a weak, sanctimonious creature, whose power of attraction over her is left a mystery; and the strong, hard, silent man plays his usual part in the feminine novel of being very magnificent, but somewhat unapproachable. There is nothing bad about the book—it is simply wanting in any genuine interest.

Off the High Road. By Eleanor C. Price. (Macmillan & Co.)

THE author seems to think that a frosty morning is likely to evoke a "fine show of red coats" at a lawn meet; apart from this her views of country life are sound, and her descriptions natural. A suggestive and realistic figure is that of the squire's son, whom straitened means detain at home until the age for a profession is past, and who employs himself in a melancholy and in-

effective style as the manager and agent who interposes between the half-ruined owner and the ancestral holders of his unremunerative farms. The Dampiers, father and son, like many of the smaller landlords who have contrived to retain their acres, prefer existence in straitened circumstances to the exactions from their tenantry which would break the time-honoured bond. Such cases as that of Harry Holt may even yet be found. But the gist of the novel is a sufficient love story, in which the fair heiress Viola, neglecting the methods of the Court of Chancery, flies to rustic Stepford to thwart the unjust guardians of her minority, and eventually endows the disinterested young squire with her heart and hand. It is a pleasant tale.

Mary Unwin. By Alan St. Aubyn. (Chatto & Windus.)

IN Mrs. Matthew Marshall's long list of stories there is no one volume that should occupy a more prominent place than 'Mary Unwin.' It is a pretty narrative of a parson's family, where love and poverty run a hard race; and if subject and treatment seem to fit the volume more particularly for girls, there is no reason to doubt that it will suit the tastes of more experienced readers of fiction as well. Some elements of familiarity with the book may be present to the mind of a few of those into whose hands it comes; and inquiry at the publishers' yields the information that the book originally appeared, under the name of 'The Master Key,' in *Cassell's Magazine*, and that it has been since entirely rewritten and enlarged. In its present form it deserves to be a successful book and to bring credit to the name of its author. We believe we are committing no indiscretion in giving her real name; her pseudonym is known in connexion with a number of novels and a few books of juvenile literature. Her newly published volume is adequately illustrated.

Harry Ingleby, Surgeon. By Frederic J. Webb. (Fisher Unwin.)

WHILE possessing little literary merit, this story is, nevertheless, readable for other qualities, which distinguish it from the mass of ill-written and badly constructed domestic novels. The experiences of the young men who are its chief actors leave the impression of being taken straight from the notebook of a real doctor, and therefore straight from human life. The author has little need, surely, to plead the cause of his profession with the public; if so, the struggles and self-sacrifices of a young medical man with a kind heart and slender purse, in a poor district, carry conviction with them to those whose greater familiarity with the prosperous, indifferent, and fashionable type of physician has bred cynicism about the whole confraternity. It is unfortunate that these foot-notes from life should be buried in a romance of inferior quality, and that the distinction which marks reality should be conspicuously lacking when the medical heroes leave off talking shop and take to slang and love-making in an innocent, but decidedly lower-middle-class fashion.

Wicked Rosamond. By Mina Sandeman. (Long.)

THERE is a decided improvement in the quality of Miss Sandeman's work, and her latest novel is the best that we have seen. There is still a certain amount of iteration in the writer's views on cruelty to animals; the "views" in question are, no doubt, well intended, but they recur with tiresome frequency. The story is good. The worldly mother, who is bad enough to seek her husband's life, and her angelic daughter are the chief persons in the drama, and both are well described; but the male characters are insufficiently outlined, and their conversation with each other in one chapter is ludicrous, for the art of writing dialogue is not one that Miss Sandeman has brought to success. The story is one nearly of to-day, and the whole of the "action" takes place in Brighton. It may be noted as a curiosity that murder is attempted by means of a poisoned pair of gloves, and that "Pond's Extract" is stated to be a good remedy.

La Terre qui Meurt. Par René Bazin. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

A WRITER for whom we have a high regard never did better work than in 'La Terre qui Meurt,' a romance of peasant life in Vendée, full of delicate feeling.

Les Messieurs de Sérigny. Par Jean de Ferrières. (Paris, Ollendorff.)

THE novel before us is a readable, but rather commonplace tale of a miserable marriage, brought about by the efforts of a family of poor fortune-hunting nobles.

THE LITERATURE OF THE MUTINY.

Recollections of a Highland Subaltern. By Lieut.-Col. W. Gordon-Alexander. (Arnold.)—The 93rd Highlanders played a distinguished part in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, and Col. William Alexander was then a lieutenant in the regiment. He had the good habit of keeping a diary, in which he recorded at the time, or at most within a day or two, the events he witnessed or heard of. The only publications relating to the work of the 93rd in the Mutiny in which events were written down at the time were a paper in the October number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, 1858, and 'My Diary in India.' The writer of these two naturally enjoyed a less good opportunity of ascertaining with exactness what the 93rd did than an officer in the regiment itself. As to other works, there is no doubt that many of them are here and there far from accurate, and, as Col. Alexander shows, this is especially so with respect to Col. Malleon's eloquent and generally trustworthy history of the Mutiny. The present book, therefore, is a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject, if we can depend on the exactitude of Col. Alexander's observation and his due appreciation of what occurred. With regard to this it may be as well to mention that not only was he able to compare his own ideas with those of his comrades at the time, but that there are still living several officers and men who fought in the ranks of the 93rd in 1857-8. Three of them have assisted him in correcting or verifying his own impressions, and others will, no doubt, protest against any errors they may discover. The book is somewhat arrogant and occasionally discursive; but, on the other hand, there is an attractive freshness in so actual a record. Quite at the commencement of his narrative the author begins to correct Col. Malleon.

The latter speaks of Lord Elgin's having diverted the 93rd from the China expedition to Calcutta, whereas at the time Lord Elgin was at Singapore. The real cause of the despatch of the 93rd from Cape Town to India was the energy and fearless action of the late Sir George Grey. Within three days of the arrival of the steamer which announced the Mutiny he had sent off, in addition to the 93rd and half the 23rd, eight regiments, leaving himself with a mere handful of troops and a few raw corps of volunteers. He also dispatched every horse he could lay his hand on. The most attractive, however, of these pages are those which deal with the taking of the Sikandarbagh and the Shah Nujif. The place was captured, according to the official despatch, by the 93rd, the 53rd, the battalion of detachments, and the 4th Punjab Rifles. Really the only troops which took part in the assault were the 93rd and the 4th Punjab Rifles. The credit of the feat must be divided between these two regiments, and the larger share may be assigned to the 93rd. The 93rd entered by the hole in the wall in the north-east tower, and apparently encountered the greatest danger and difficulty; the 4th Punjab Rifles stormed the south-west tower while the attention of the enemy was to a considerable extent drawn to the opposite angle. That many, if any, of the 4th Punjab Rifles mingled with the 93rd at the so-called breach is, according to Col. Alexander, a mistake, though Col. Malleon and other writers assert the contrary. The whole of these two chapters relating to the Sikandarbagh is of the greatest interest, because of their lively description of incidents of the fight, and also the important corrections they make of what has hitherto passed for history. The current belief as to the circumstances of the capture of the Shah Nujif is also, maintains the author, speaking from personal knowledge, altogether erroneous. The assault in front had failed, and Sir Colin was about to order a withdrawal, when Lieut. Maxwell Hyslop and Sergeant Paton of the 93rd reported to the brigadier that fifty yards to the right, and round the corner of the building, they had found an opening, which they thought could be climbed. Brigadier Hope had not, as Col. Malleon states, discovered the breach before the assault, and the party—of which Col. Alexander was one—did not see the last of the enemy disappearing in the dusk. On the occasion of the evacuation of the Residency the women and children passed by the post occupied by the sixth company of the 93rd, and the soldiers offered them their tea rations:—

"The result was unexpected, for when our men offered the tea to the wives and widows of the non-commissioned officers and men of the garrison, in the belief, of course, that it would be gratefully accepted, they were very indignant indeed, because the women, whom they had pictured to themselves as being in a semi-starved condition after the long siege, asked for milk with it, 'as they did not care for tea without milk,' none of us having even seen milk for more than a week! The men were not slow to give these ungrateful people a bit of their mind, especially as the wives and widows of the officers amongst them gratefully accepted the tea with thanks, without milk, and expressed their appreciation of our men's self-denial in saving their own tea for them."

Of the battle of Cawnpore these pages contain an animated account. That it was a complete and crushing victory is well known, but it ought to have produced even greater results. This want of completeness was due to Sir William Mansfield, who failed to intercept the retreat of the centre and left wing under Tantia Topi. Yet the smallest advance and the slightest energy would have accomplished the desired object. Col. Alexander is justly severe on General Mansfield, and mentions that Brigadier Hope and every officer and man were furious at seeing a fine opportunity thrown away. Col. Malleon is quoted to support this view, and in a note which is appended occur the significant words:—

"He had that within him to procure him eminence in any profession, excepting one: he was not, and could never have become, a great soldier. Possessing undoubted personal courage, he was yet not a general at all, except in name."

Windham fell under the ban of the authorities unjustly, yet his offence was certainly less than that of Mansfield. At all events, the former displayed energy. Even more severe is the writer on General Walpole, who caused his force, which consisted of the flower of the army, to undergo a discreditable check at the fort of Ruhiya, a check, too, which involved the sacrifice of many valuable lives, especially that of Brigadier Hope. Walpole's fatuity and incompetence on the occasion roused the greatest indignation among both officers and men. Indeed, some two years later a 93rd private, when conversing with his captain on the subject, spoke with tears in his eyes of the disgrace thus inflicted on the regiment. Col. Alexander constantly indulges in digressions; some are quite unjustifiable, others more admissible, as they concern the fortunes of Colin Campbell's heroic army. For instance, he recalls the fact that the plate and jewels recovered, by dint of great exertion on the part of the troops, from the Nana's palace at Bithoor were calmly appropriated by the Government of India, instead of being handed over as prize of war, those who recovered the treasure not even receiving working pay. In conclusion, we must note that the author shows a certain amount of carelessness in revising the proofs, for on the title-page his name is given as "Lieut.-Colonel W. Gordon-Alexander," whereas the hyphen should have been omitted, his surname being plain "Alexander." We have also to complain of some loosely written passages and occasional repetitions. Nevertheless, in spite of these defects, the book is welcome and, from a limited point of view, historically valuable.

The Sepoy Mutiny, by Col. Edward Vibart (Smith, Elder & Co.), though made up of reprints, is a welcome contribution to the history of the great Indian outbreak of 1857. The chief part of it is from the pen of Col. Vibart himself, and reprinted from the *Cornhill Magazine*. Another section, by Mr. P. V. Luke, is from *Macmillan's Magazine*. Both well merit something more than the fugitive life of a magazine article. A third part is an extract from 'Mutiny Memoirs,' published by the Pioneer Press in 1891, and written by Col. A. R. D. Mackenzie. It is, we must admit, a bit of padding, but padding of a superior sort. Col. Vibart was a subaltern in a native infantry regiment when, on the 11th of May, 1857, Delhi passed once more into the hands of the Moguls. His account of that exciting day and his subsequent flight to Meerut is of peculiar value as the work of an eye-witness, probably the only surviving witness of the horrors of the day. It is also attractive, inasmuch as a love romance is associated with it. About 4 P.M. on that terrible day a handful of British officers and a few women and children who had sought refuge with them at the main guard heard guns firing at the magazine, and a few minutes later the magazine blew up with a terrific explosion. Shortly afterwards Lieuts. Willoughby and Forrest, to whose heroism the deed was due, appeared at the main guard, the latter with a bad wound, caused by a bullet in the hand. He was followed, after an interval, by some sergeants and conductors who had shared in the exploit. An order arrived for the return to cantonments of the two guns and the detachment of the 74th Native Infantry under Major Abbott which had been sent to the main guard. The Deputy-Collector persuaded the major to wait a few minutes while he galloped off to remonstrate with the brigadier about the 74th. After waiting for some time for his return, Major Abbott determined to obey the order which he had received, and to march to camp. In the meantime the two guns had been intercepted and brought back by some of the

38th Native Infantry, many men of which regiment, in threes and fours, kept dropping into the main guard enclosure. Major Abbott had just passed through the gate with half his men when the Sepoys of the 38th Native Infantry closed it, and the next instant fired a volley into a group of officers. Every one then raced for the ramp which led to the bastion above, pursued by showers of bullets, which killed and wounded several. Some officers leaped without hesitation into the ditch—a drop of 25 ft.—and Vibart and the remainder were about to follow their example, when despairing cries for help were heard from some ladies who had taken refuge in the officers' quarters in the bastion. Taking them to an embrasure, some of the party dropped into the ditch, others remained on top to lower the ladies by means of sword-belts fastened together, while those in the ditch strove to break their fall as much as possible. One stout old lady refused to jump, and began to scream. There was no time for hesitation or ceremony, so she was pushed over. After several failures the whole party climbed up the other side of the ditch and rushed into some thick shrubbery close by. Hearing voices, they hurried on, but the old lady collapsed. She had been grazed on the temple by a bullet and partially stunned by her fall into the ditch, and could not be roused. Two officers tried to carry her, but she was heavy, the road was difficult, and the others had gone on. Reluctantly, therefore, she had to be left on the ground in a state of unconsciousness, and probably died shortly afterwards. After innumerable perils, hairbreadth escapes, and hardships, the whole party, of whom Vibart was one, reached Meerut in safety. The author tells the story simply but graphically, and dwells with well-deserved emphasis on the brave conduct of the ladies. If ever man and woman had an opportunity before marriage of ascertaining the dispositions and true characters of each other, the eldest Miss Forrest and Lieut. Procter—both being among the fugitives—had. At all events, they learned to appreciate each other, and were married a few months later. In the midst of the treachery of the native troops it is pleasant to find some bright exceptions among the civil population. For example, Vibart and his helpless companions were on several occasions treated with kindness by villagers, though the latter were in terror of the Sepoys, and firmly believed that our rule had come to an end. Lieut. Osborn also, who was wounded at the outbreak at Delhi and unable to continue his escape, was fed and tended for three days by a native woman, and finally carried into Meerut by some well-affected villagers. Col. Mackenzie's 'Mutiny Memoirs' are exciting and quite worth reading. The story of the last telegram from Delhi by Mr. Luke is also a valuable contribution to the history of the great outbreak, and admirably told in these pages. We are happy to relate that one of the two lads who stuck to the telegraph office, Mr. Brendish, still lives, and eventually retired from the Telegraph Department on the full pay of his rank. The illustrations in the book are good, and there is a plan of the city and cantonments of Delhi.

SHORT STORIES.

In *The Records of Vincent Trill* (Chatto & Windus) Dick Donovan declares that "dealing as they do with actual facts and with crimes, not virtues," they "must necessarily bring the worst side of human nature uppermost"; and this statement is a fair characterization of that portion of the volume which purports to contain the records of a detective in London. Nearly a third of the whole has, however, nothing to do with the supposed detective and his triumphs over criminals. The book is a series of dreary narratives, written, no doubt, by a practised hand, but by one that has too little skill in the art of story-telling. There

is, or rather has been, a demand for this class of fiction, provoked possibly by the past success of more than one master of the art. But obvious inconsistencies, inaccurate use of terms, and frequent blunders in grammar and composition are not features which adorn the records of Detective Trill. These records are contained in thirteen chapters, provided with such headlines as 'An Awful Conspiracy,' 'A Strange Tragedy,' and 'The Murder of Hon. Peter Hipshaw,' and added thereto are three more narratives of a similar type, with which it would be impossible in point of time to associate the detective. We have read other stories by the same author, but we regard 'The Records of Vincent Trill' as the least advantageous of his publications.

There are four stories of varying merit included in *Some Fantasies of Fate*, by M. W. Welbore (Digby, Long & Co.), and they do not call for lengthy notice. The mind of the writer is evidently exercised on such subjects as the deceased wife's sister and the disadvantages of Anglo-Indian society. With regard to the latter subject, one of the characters in the last of the four narratives professes to some intimate knowledge of English ladies in India, and says, "I have seen scores of these same women give in at last under the cursed glamour of Indian life and society." Most of these stories are characterized by sensational incidents, and in one entitled 'The Deserted Mill' there is more than average merit. But as a collection we do not find much to distinguish M. W. Welbore's stories from many of a similar type with which we have dealt in these columns. The book is printed in clear and well-spaced type, and may be read without disadvantage.

SCHOOL-BOOKS.

Demonstrations in Latin Elegiac Verse. By W. H. D. Rouse. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)—The idea of Mr. Rouse's book is not, of course, new, but we remember nothing of the sort since Mr. Preston's little book of 'Exercises in Latin Verse,' which was but a thin affair, and are glad to commend the plan of the present volume, and the taste and idiom of the versions. These are printed, after an able discussion of the means by which they are arrived at, by two lines at a time. The book seems likely to be most useful to teachers and students; we should add, to boys too, if they might be expected, with a "fair copy" in view, to trouble as to how it came into being. Mr. Rouse is a great maker of points, and perhaps lays too much stress on antithesis, although this is probably the right and showy thing for scholarship purposes. Still we have the narrative of the 'Fasti' to copy as well as the pointed rhetoric of the 'Heroides,' and in the 'Fasti' might have been discovered a pretty word for "woodbine," *melilotos*, for which the book finds "no poetical word is forthcoming." The choice of pieces is generally good; most of them are new to us. It is doing no discredit to Mr. Rouse if we say that we prefer G. J. Kennedy's exquisite version of "Tell me not, sweet, I am unkind," to that which he prints. April's "tenderest, freshest green" is hardly adequately rendered by *Gramina quæ tenero læta vigore virent*.

Perhaps the best feature of the book is the introduction, which explains the various graces and expedients which make the success of Ovid's elegiacs. A study of this, reinforced by the Latin poets, may well make Latin verse as practised in England more like the real thing, and less like a "sickly exotic."

Mr. T. E. Page has edited *Virgil: Æneid, XI.*, in the "Elementary Classics" of Messrs. Macmillan, and it may be said that his notes are thorough and satisfactory. We think he is right in taking "belli propinqui" in 156, "war near home," against the common version. Such vague references as "See Sidgwick" are of little value. We have no doubt that boys will be glad

to see him, and his books too, later; but at an early stage one book is enough. References to 'Frazer's Golden Bough' and Grant Allen's 'Attis' also seem quite unsuitable. Those to Scott's 'Lady of the Lake' are the right thing.

Xenophon: Hellenica, Books I. and II. Edited by G. M. Edwards. (Cambridge, University Press.)—Mr. Edwards has written up his introduction to this volume of the "Pitt Press Series" with care, and taken enough trouble about his notes to make them useful and adequate. Such notes, however, as "Hartman's *ὁμοιον* is an obvious, but feeble emendation," and "not a solecism, as Hartman thinks," are unnecessary and vexatious. It is a boy's business to master Greek texts and Greek grammar; he need not be initiated into the ingenious futilities of Germans. The edition is well equipped on the historical side.

Mr. P. B. Halcombe has prepared the *Medea of Euripides* (Blackie) for youthful readers by rendering the speeches of the Chorus into English as too difficult for beginners in Greek, and dividing the rest into twenty-eight sections. The idea is, if not original, laudable. Unfortunately Mr. Halcombe seems to forget often for whom he writes. For instance, such a note as "*νοστέ* τὰ φίλ᾽ατα, 'the fondest ties are severed,'" is not half literal enough, especially as the sense given to *νοστέ* in the vocabulary does not do here. The decidedly difficult passage at the beginning of *Medea's* speech ('*Medea*,' 216 foll.) is shirked in the notes. Again, there is no help as to the construction *κρείσσονων νικώμενοι* (315), which no boy can be expected to understand out of his own head. In view of such deficiencies we cannot recommend this edition.

King Richard II. Edited by A. W. Verity. (Cambridge, University Press.)—The "Pitt Press Shakespeare" can stand in competition with any of the numerous editions of the sort now showered upon reviewers. This instance of it does credit to Mr. Verity, who is an excellent editor; he does not overdo the philology, and adds an excellent glossary of difficult words. To make a small criticism, we like to see Shakespeare illustrated by himself where possible. So under "moe," "Sing no more ditties, sing no moe" ('*Much Ado*,' II. iii. 72), or one of the other passages where the word is used in Shakespeare, might have been added. "*Præcoqua*," under "apricock," should be "*præcoqua*"; and "*præcoquous*" is more than "cognate," being the same word.

TALES OF ADVENTURE.

THERE are evidences of a vigorous capacity for narration in *Lone Pine*, by R. B. Townshend (Methuen & Co.) and several passages in the book are full of descriptive force. The prospector's life in Northern Mexico, on the borders of the United States, and the manners and customs of the natives and their relations to the early settlers, are contrasted with a modest but sufficient love story which ends, happily enough, in the last chapter. The subject chosen by the author is one which concerns the history of the early pioneers in New Mexico about a quarter of a century ago; and the frequent mention of the Winchester repeating-rifle suggests that this remarkable weapon was yet in its infancy at the date of the action of the story. The writer's strength in dealing with scenes of violence and bloodshed is certainly remarkable, and it is accompanied by a very adequate representation of the scenery and surroundings in which the events occur. There are few chapters in the book that will strike the most careful reader as unnecessary or overdone. The story might, indeed, have been prolonged, for the writer appears to draw on an inexhaustible stock of incident and description, and the actual plot of the story is comparatively insignificant. The volume is clearly the work

of a clever writer and of an educated and experienced traveller. In the last chapter we find a curious rendering of a poem of Heine's, translated into Spanish by the Reader of Spanish at Oxford. As a book of adventure Mr. R. B. Townshend's volume may be regarded as an interesting contribution to the literature of the day.

Those who are fond of adventures, and have a craving for hairbreadth escapes, will find *The Mandarin*, by Carlton Dawe (Hutchinson & Co.), congenial reading. From first to last the air is full of fierce combats and direful murders. Knives flash through the air, and revolvers are ready for all emergencies. To this concourse of tragedies the author has introduced an element of romance in the person of a missionary's daughter, whom the hero rescues from imminent peril, and ultimately marries. The hero, Paul Collingham, in response to an invitation from his godfather, a missionary at Fong-Chin, near Canton, takes ship to pay him a visit. He is met at Canton by his host's factotum, Ting, an inscrutable being, who, though converted to Christianity, still wallows in the mire of the pleasant vices. Under the guidance of this backslider Paul visits the Flower Boats and gambling hells of Canton. At these last, like a true hero of romance, he wins a considerable stake, and thus enters on the first of his perils in the Flowery Land. Eventually, in the company of his ally Ting, he reaches the hospitable roof of his godfather, and is introduced to the daughter of the house, Miss Ormsby, who is all that a hero of romance could desire. But Paul presently discovers that there is another, who is anything but a hero of romance, who ardently longs for the possession of Miss Ormsby. The Taotai Wang-Hai had as intense an admiration for the lady as had Paul himself, and after many attempts to gain possession of her by fair means he resorts to foul. By a mean subterfuge he manages to entice her to a distant part of the city, where he succeeds in kidnapping her, and in carrying her off to his suburban villa. The natural result follows. Paul, by the help of the faithful Ting, discovers the place of her detention, and allows Ting to cut off Wang-Hai's ears and to slice his chest. After this gruesome operation he rescues the lady, and, through much tribulation, lands her safely in Hong Kong. This is a bare sketch of the story, which forms a readable *olla podrida* of adventure and baffled villainy.

Being dated in 1898, Mr. Alec J. Boyd's *The Shellback; or, at Sea in the Sixties* (Cassell), seems to be issued now as a contribution to the correspondence on "Mercantile Jack" which has been filling the columns of the *Morning Post*. Whether Mr. Boyd is meant as a real name, it is impossible to say; but Mr. Archie Campbell, who figures as the editor of the story, introduces him as a hero of romance, and then leaves him to spin his yarn of experiences in a merchant ship sailing under the flag of the United States, and described as a good deal more like the infernal regions than was Blackbeard's cabin when he closed all the exits and lighted a pot of sulphur so that they might have a little hell of their own. That the several incidents, abominable as they are, really happened, is not improbable; what seems improbable is that they should have happened in the same ship within the compass of a few months; and certainly, if intended to be taken seriously, they ought not to be brought out as a tale of adventure. The more interesting and important part of the book, especially in its bearing on the present controversy, is in the appendix, where the author—whether his name is Boyd or something else—summarizes his views of the life of a merchant seaman thus:—

"Putting all the evils and counter evils on one side, there is this in favour of a sea life as against a life as a labourer ashore: light work, warm quarters, plentiful though rough food, fair wages, liberty on shore occasionally when in port, and, unless a man ships in a whaler, an engagement lasting from four to twelve months, with a re-engagement at any moment he pleases.....In the bad times of '94 the

men in that ship [particularized] had seventeen shillings a week clear, over and above board and lodging. As the mate said: 'There's no ordinary working man here, in Queensland, that I can hear of that has five shillings clear at the week's end.'"

The fact seems to be that the rough life of a seaman is often estimated by a false standard—that, say, of a clerk or a novelist, instead of a labourer; and in speaking of the wages it is forgotten that they are *net*. In calling attention to this Mr. Boyd's little book has a value of its own.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE appearance of Mr. Nye's *Story of the Oxford Movement* (Bemrose & Sons) arouses the inquiry whether as much has not already been written about the subject as its importance deserves. Mr. Nye is well intentioned, but he is not strong-minded. It is true he is free from the silly credulity which marked the work of his immediate predecessor (who took the opposite view to his); but his judgments do not inspire confidence, and his *naïveté* is considerable.

M. F. MASSON continues his studies on the surroundings of Napoleon, but is spreading his material rather thinly over his numerous volumes. The latest of them is an enlarged edition of his *Joséphine, Impératrice et Reine*, now published by M. Ollendorff, and previously, as an illustrated gift-book, by the house of Goupil. The character of *Joséphine* at the end is well drawn, but we object to M. Masson's suggestion that her dissimulation, her prodigality, and her silliness make her a typical Frenchwoman, and even a typical woman. In one passage, however, he writes that she "ever lived in the truth of her character and temperament, which were the character and temperament of the courtesan"—a statement which is very different, and is true.

THE house of Calmann Lévy publishes *Voyage au Pays des Mines d'Or: Le Klondike*, by M. Auzias-Turenne, the best book on Klondyke that we have read, full of new photographs, and giving a real though disagreeable impression of the place and neighbourhood.

Whitaker's Naval and Military Directory and Indian Army List for 1899, published by Messrs. J. Whitaker & Sons, is, so far as we have been able to check it, free from error, and is useful.

The Municipal Year-Book for 1899, edited by Mr. Robert Donald, and published by Edward Lloyd, Limited, at the offices of the *Municipal Journal and London*, is an excellent book of reference, which we have tested at many points and found invariably accurate.

A BEAUTIFUL reprint of the writings of a considerable early professor of the art of defence reaches us from Messrs. Bell & Sons. *The Works of George Silver*, comprising 'Paradoxes of Defence,' printed in 1599, and some shorter works—mostly instructions for fighting with various weapons—which are printed for the first time from the manuscripts, are edited by Mr. Cyril Matthey, himself a high authority on fencing. Silver was a friend of Robert, Earl of Essex, a great authority on swordsmanship, and a powerful advocate of the short cutting and thrusting sword as against the long foreign rapier. He is, in fact, a teacher of the British art of fencing as understood in the time of Queen Elizabeth as against the Spanish and Italian. It comes out very clearly from Silver's interesting works that in Elizabethan days the Spanish school of fencers had brought to great perfection the "new" French method, which has been lately rediscovered by rapier teachers such as Baudry of Paris. The point which Silver does not bring out at all is the bearing on the best system of the clothes worn by the man attacked, and the fact that there could be no absolute best as between the Spanish and English Elizabethan systems of fighting, but that the choice must depend upon the armour or pro-

TECTIVE clothing worn. No man armed with a regimental sword, which appears to have been Silver's weapon, could possibly contend on equal terms with a skilful Spaniard armed with the long large-hilted rapier, and fighting with the straight arm and perfect protection of his own body, trusting, in fact, to the Englishman spitting himself, unless his body was protected by something more than ordinary stuff clothes. If, on the other hand, the latter was protected by armour, matters might have taken a very different turn. Silver fully discusses the whole of the secondary arms, offensive and defensive—the dagger held in the left hand, the target or buckler, and the use of the mailed left hand for seizing the adversary's weapon. In his 'Instructions,' printed from the manuscript in the British Museum, he deals also with other kinds of weapons.

THE ironical *Life of Mr. Jonathan Wild the Great* forms the tenth volume in the handsome and desirable edition of Fielding which Messrs. Constable & Co. are publishing. As only two more volumes are promised in the set of 'Works,' we are somewhat curious as to what will be included and excluded of the minor miscellanies. The comedies and farces are obviously set aside; but we hope to see at any rate the striking posthumous 'Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon' reprinted in the edition.—Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have published, as the first instalment of a "Two-Shilling Library," Miss Broughton's famous novel *Cometh Up as a Flower*.

Quentin Durward, Mr. Lang's favourite among the later Waverleys, has been added to Mr. Nimmo's reissue of the "Border Edition" of Scott's romances.—Messrs. Dent & Co. have issued *St. Ronan's Well* in their pretty and convenient edition. The same active firm are pushing on their reprint of Dickens's novels, and have issued, in three neat volumes, *Nicholas Nickleby*, with a "bibliographical note" by Mr. W. Jerrold, which might have been improved had he referred to the discussion in the *Athenæum* some years back on Yorkshire schools.

MESSRS. JARROLD & SONS send us a cheap abridgment, in one volume, of D'Aubigné's history of *The Great Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. D'Aubigné wrote as a partisan, and subsequent research has superseded his volumes; so that publishers who issue a book of this sort uncorrected and unrevised take upon themselves a responsibility we should not care to incur.

THE *Library World* for March is before us. It is a useful magazine, and it does not copy our reports of the meetings of the Bibliographical Society without acknowledgment, as the *Library Association Record* does.

THE first number of the *Bulletin of the Free Library of Philadelphia* contains a 'Descriptive Catalogue of the Writings of Sir Walter Scott,' by Mr. J. Thomson. The descriptions are unnecessarily discursive, but the volume, at any rate, shows the compiler's zeal.

WE have on our table *Bismarck and German Unity*, by M. Smith (Macmillan),—*Benjamin Franklin*, by E. Robins (Putnam),—*In the Republic of Letters*, by W. M. Dixon (Nutt),—*Nature for its own Sake*, by J. C. van Dyke (Low),—*The Way the World Went Then*, by I. Barclay (Stanford),—*The London University Guide, 1898-9* (Clive),—*A First Sketch of English History: Part I. 449-1307*, by E. J. Mathew (Macmillan),—*The Story of Geographical Discovery*, by J. Jacobs (Newnes),—*London*, by J. W. Cundall (Greening),—*Macaulay: The Life and Writings of Addison*, with Notes and Appendix by R. F. Winch (Macmillan),—*A First Algebra*, by Dr. W. T. Knight (Relfe Brothers),—*Mesmerism, Hypnotism, &c.*, by G. Wyld (Kegan Paul),—*Meggot's Brae: Portraits and Memories*, by H. Rogers (Hodder & Stoughton),—*Nelly's Work*, by E. Chilton (S.S.U.),—*By Jinnah's Banks*, by P. Markham (Long),—

All Sorts and Conditions of Women, by C. B. Banks (Stock).—*The Dormitory Flag*, by H. Avery (Nelson).—*Wayland the Smith, a Drama in Five Acts*, by J. Börsch, translated by A. Comyn (Kegan Paul).—*Legends of the Saints*, by the Rev. G. R. Woodward (Kegan Paul).—*Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*, by Richard Le Gallienne (Grant Richards).—*Olivette, and other Poems*, by A. V. (Burleigh).—*A Season of Rest, and other Verse*, by C. D. Holt (Liverpool, Young).—*Pygmalion, and some Sonnets and Drama*, by W. Hurrell (Simpkin).—*Gift of the Night, and other Poems*, by D. Lowe (Wilson & Co.).—*Singings through the Dark*, Poems, by D. B. Montefiore (Low).—*The More Excellent Way*, compiled by the Hon. Mrs. L. Gell (Frowde).—*Love, a Poem in Five Cantos*, by E. Derry (A. Andrews).—*Reconciliation by Incarnation*, by D. W. Simon, D.D. (Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark).—*In Memoriam*, von Alfred, Lord Tennyson, translated by J. Feis (Strasbourg, Heitz & Mündel).—*Und Führe durch Pompeji*, by A. Mau (Leipzig, Engelmann).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Bible Stories (Old Testament), edited by R. G. Moulton, 2/6.
Bossuet's (J. B.) Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, cr. 8vo. 3/6.
Briggs's (C. A.) General Introduction to the Study of Holy Scripture, royal 8vo. 12/ net.
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THE ORIGIN OF THE SURNAME "CHAUCEY."

THE ELIAS LE CHAUCIER, or Chaucer, mentioned in Prof. Skeat's letter of February 4th was, I venture to suggest, the Elias de Hertford who was an official, apparently connected with the

Chancery, in the reign of Edward I. He is probably the Elias de Hertford whose son Elias (le Quilter?) granted to John de Ducklington the messuage called "Le Hert-halle," in Oxford, which was acquired from Ducklington in 1312 by Walter de Stapeldon for the use of his scholars, who were subsequently removed to the site of Exeter College (see Boase's 'Registrum Collegii Exoniensis,' pp. 285, 286). According to this work, Elias de Hertford acquired Hert Hall in 1283, and quitclaimed it to his son in 1301. The identification, if correct, is of considerable interest, for Elias de Hertford (or his son) has the unique honour of having a college called after him, although there is no evidence that he ever contributed, as so many Chancery clerks of his age did, to the endowment of college or hall. The device on his (or his son's) seal is now the arms of Hertford College (see Boase, p. 285). A will of an Elias de Hertford is entered in Dr. Sharpe's 'Calendar of Wills enrolled in the Court of Husting, London,' vol. i. p. 51, under the date of January 25th, 1281. His wife and son have the same Christian names as the wife and son of the Oxford Elias de Hertford.

The Privy Seal file, Edward II., No. 6,566, contains a petition of the Merchants of the Society of the Bardi of Florence for payment of certain sums of money, and a Privy Seal writ (No. 6,565), dated July 1st, 16 Edward II. (1323), for payment thereof. A "Chonel [John?] le Chaucer" is mentioned therein thrice as receiving money on the king's behalf. The following extract may serve:—

"C'est la dette que nostre Seigneur le Roi devoit ala Compaignie de Barde au temps que les custumes furent grauntez.....

"Item, a Chonel le Chaucer par lettre de son prive seal, l'an xii., xxiiiij.

"Item, a Chonel le Chaucer par son comendement de bouche, xxiiiij.

"Item, a Chonel le Chaucer par son comendement de bouche, l'an xiii., viij."

The pronouns here refer, it is necessary to state, to the king.

The 'Calendar of Close Rolls' of Edward II. contains in 1325 (p. 497) an enrolment of a recognizance for 40l. by a London corn merchant to Luke de Grendon of London, "chaucer." This is the only instance that I have met with in dealing with MSS. of the use of this as a trade name. I have not noticed anything to suggest that Grendon was connected with the Chancery, but there is nothing incompatible with such a connexion. In 11 Edward II. he is described as a citizen of London ('Close Roll,' p. 586). It would be interesting to know more of Luke de Grendon. Further knowledge of his calling might dissipate or confirm doubts as to the identity of "chaucer" and "chaufecire," which is not yet beyond question. The statement in the 'Globe Chaucer,' p. xix, note 1, that "in the fourteenth century Chaucer, or Le Chaucer (the shoemaker), was not an uncommon name," must astonish any one who is well acquainted with records of that period.

W. H. STEVENSON.

DR. PREUSCHEN AND THE 'LAUSIAC HISTORY.'

THE writer of the review of my 'Lausiac History of Palladius' in the *Athenæum* of January 28th said that Dr. Preuschen's views differ from mine on two points: (1) on the question as to which of the redactions represents the authentic Lausiac history; (2) on the historical character and credibility of the work; and he said that I had incorrectly represented Dr. Preuschen as agreeing with me. May I call attention to Dr. Preuschen's own review of my book in the current number of the *Theologische Literaturzeitung* (February 18th)? It will there be seen that on both the above points Dr. Preuschen declares that my conclusions are in full agreement with those at which he had himself arrived. Thus in regard to (1) he ends

his account of Part I., which deals with the questions of redaction, with the following words: "Soweit reicht der erste Theil, dessen Resultate sich im Wesentlichen mit den meinigen decken und bei dem ich mit Freuden meine volle Uebereinstimmung constatiren kann" (cf. also his 'Palladius und Rufinus,' 1897, pp. iii, 98-105, 163, which sums up the results of the previous thirty pages, 211-24, 247-55). And in regard to (2), he says of the section which deals with the question of "Historicity"—the "Glaubwürdigkeit," he calls it, of Palladius's 'Berichte':—"Auch hier befinde ich mich mit Butler in erfreulicher Uebereinstimmung."

CUTHBERT BUTLER, O.S.B.

** In his note Mr. Butler characteristically makes the kind of mistake which was ascribed to him in the review of his book. He misapprehends both the statements in the review which he quotes, and then adduces quotations to prove that the statements thus misapprehended are incorrect. Preuschen agrees with him in his idea as to the mode in which the original of the 'Lausiac History' is to be discovered, and it is to this that Preuschen refers in his review. But he does not agree with him as to the text which best represents this original. Mr. Butler maintains that this text is the short Latin recension in Rosweyde's Appendix (pp. 933-77, first ed.). Preuschen's opinion of this text is: "Und darum liegt kein Grund vor, in dem Lateiner ein besonders treues Abbild des ursprünglichen Textes zu erblicken." There is nothing in the review to show that Preuschen has changed his mind, but on the contrary he affirms that the problem seems more complicated than Mr. Butler deems it and than he himself thought it was.

The second point Mr. Butler has also misapprehended. We suggested to him that when Preuschen said that the book contains a true picture of the monkish life he did not mean to give his adhesion to the truth of all the stories contained in it. He merely means, as it appears to us, that those people are wrong who suppose that Palladius devised the story and never saw the persons whom he mentions nor heard the tales which he tells. The narrative is a narrative, according to him, of personal experience, and therefore perfectly credible; but it seems to us that Mr. Butler means a great deal more than this by his historicity. He appears to believe that all the tales of the monks are true. He can easily put the matter to the test. In his next volume he has simply to narrate all the miracles and all the abnormal modes of life, extraordinary fasts, and tortures of the body which are contained in the 'Historia Lausiaca,' and to say whether he believes them, and he will probably then discover that there is the widest difference between Preuschen and himself.

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MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON & HODGE commenced a six days' sale of books and manuscripts on the 27th ult. We give some of the best prices realized in the first two days: Longus, Daphnis et Chloe, traduction d'Amyot, with the designs of Philippe d'Orléans, 1718, 48s. French Theatrical Costumes, c. 1820, 16s. Lewin's Birds of Great Britain, specially coloured copy, 1789-92, 27s. Turner's Picturesque Views, large-paper india proofs, 1838, 19s. Atkyn's State of Gloucestershire, first edition, views by Kip, 1712, 12s. 15s. Boydell's Shakespeare Gallery, 1771. Dugdale's Monasticon, new edition, large paper, 1817-30, 51s. Galerie de Florence, 1789-1807, 11s. Galerie du Palais Royal, 1796-1808, 15s. 10s. Hamilton's Etruscan Antiquities, 1766-7, 10s. 10s. Lodge's Portraits, large-paper india proofs, 1821-34, 32s. 10s. Book of Common Prayer, bound by S. Mearne for Charles II., 1662, 26s. 10s. Walpole's Royal and Noble Authors, by Park, extra illustrated, 1806, 31s. Edmund

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Messrs. Skeffington will publish in a few days a series of addresses to men, entitled 'The Church's Message to Men,' by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Milne, Dean Hole, Canon Gore, and others; and a series of sermons by Canon Hammond of St. Austell, entitled 'The Church and her Accusers at the Present Crisis.' Among the subjects are the various charges against the Church, such as that of sacerdotalism, the confessional, teaching and practising Popery, lawlessness, &c.

'SCOTTISH VERNACULAR LITERATURE.'

I do not object to your critic's description of his notice of my volume as "little fault-finding"; but I regret that his too exclusive devotion to this pastime seems to have led you to infer that it was primarily a "contribution to modern philology."

For information on one or two points I am obliged; but since with the bulk of his "corrections" I quite disagree, I am compelled, however much against my wish, to copy for the time being his example.

I must demur to the statement that in my preface I have claimed anything for my book that it is not. The purpose and scope of Dr. M. Ross's 'Scottish History and Literature' are quite different from those of mine. His book deals chiefly with literature in reference to social and political history; it does not seek to trace the interdependence of Scottish poetry; it does not deal even with the metres; and it is not a special handbook to vernacular literature.

Your critic pronounces *ex cathedra* that I have "misrendered" certain words and phrases, but omits to give his own rendering. As to *luve* and *lé* not being "love and law," your critic will find that David Laing, in the glossary at the end of Wyntoun, gives two separately derived nouns *lé*, one of which means "law"; and for historical reasons I prefer "law" in this passage, notwithstanding a stiffness in the construction. If *but* and *ben* ("Full benely stufit baith but and ben," p. 128) does not mean "in kitchen and parlour"—the phrase is used humorously—will your critic say what it means? In *tholit* to be *pynde* to which word does your critic object? *Pynde* is certainly Scots for "pained," not for "pined"; and *tholit* is Scots for "endured" or "suffered." I preferred "suffered" as the more exact rendering. As to translating *lerges* by the East Anglian *largesse*, (1) I know nothing of East Anglian; and (2) the book is not intended solely for East Anglians. *Lerges* is rendered "bounty" in the excellent glossary to the Bannatyne MS.; and besides, the English word *largess*—not in common use—means "bounty." The remark on *hurchonis* is beyond my comprehension. Does your critic mean that I ought to have translated it "urchins" (i.e., children)? and do the lines mean that in the early morning young children, at the same time as hares, were to be seen "aye passing in pairs"? If he asserts that I ought to have referred to the second meaning, I can only reply that my space was precious, and that the information is to be found in any good English dictionary.

I regret that the words "a note of" came to

be omitted before Bishop Tanner; but in reference to "1488" my "may," &c., was intended to contradict the "cannot" of Mr. J. T. T. Brown, and had your critic been aware even of the correspondence in the *Athenæum* he would not have put the matter *vice versa*. As to Linton and Hauch, I merely gave Douglas's designations, with the simple explanation about Hauch now being Prestonkirk. I see nothing misleading in what I have done. In Groome's 'Gazetteer' Linton (under Linton) is said to have been the name of the parish "down to the Reformation," and Hauch (under Prestonkirk) is also said to have been its name "in the time of Gavin Douglas," that is, *before* the Reformation. I could not reconcile these statements as they stood, but I thought it likely that then, as now, the one name might refer specially to the village, the other to the parish. How does your critic know that Robert Henryson was not designated "schoolmaster of Dunfermline" until many years after his death? Moreover, I never affirmed that he was. I stated that he was so designated on the title-page of his 'Fables,' and the date of their publication is given in my note as 1570. As to 'Great Claus and Little' and 'The Freiris of Berwick,' I have conceded that the plot of 'The Freiris' was partly borrowed, but I dissent from the school of opinion that would trace all tales with a similar plot to a common origin. How does your critic know that Knox never studied at St. Andrews? His friend Beza says he did, and if my statement be too unguarded, it has more to support it than that of your critic, for Knox, who was attracted to Glasgow by John Major, would most likely follow Major next year to St. Andrews. As to Knox's "first sermon," my statement is his "first publick sermon"; but they are identical, and if your critic traverses my statement he contradicts not merely me or Mr. Hume Brown, but the Reformer himself, who says that it was preached in "the parish kirk of Sanct Androis" ('Works,' ed. Laing, i. 189). My reason for devoting so little space to Hamilton of Bangour was that he was the author of only one poem that has the faintest claims to be termed vernacular.

T. F. HENDERSON.

*** Mr. Henderson ignores fifteen of the reviewer's twenty-nine animadversions; it is hard, then, to recognize his right "quite to disagree with the bulk" of them. Two of the fourteen points to which he does refer are practically conceded by him: he regrets that "a note of" was omitted before Bishop Tanner, and he may have been "too unguarded" in stating that Knox studied at St. Andrews. This leaves twelve objections; we will glance at them *seriatim*. 1. Dr. Ross's book was, we still think, a predecessor to Mr. Henderson's; that opinion is based on an acquaintance with the book itself, and on a long review of it in the *Athenæum* of June 28th, 1884. 2. *Lé*, the modern *lee*, has in this passage been always rendered by "peace" or "tranquillity," and we see not the faintest reason to challenge that rendering. Cf. Henryson's 'The Paddock and the Mous,' l. 156, "Better but stryfe to leif allane in lé." 3. *But and ben* in Scotch implies a two-roomed house; "in kitchen and parlour" is suggestive of many more rooms. 4. "Tholit to be *pynde* on croce" surely means "suffered to be pined or nailed to the cross." 5 and 6. To explain *lerges* by "bounty" and *hurchonis* by "hedgehogs," and not to add that the Scottish words are identical with the English dialectal *largesse* and *urchin*, is beyond the reviewer's comprehension—utterly. 7. Mr. J. T. T. Brown seems to make out a good case for his date of the MS.; if there had been a hint that Mr. Henderson had disapproved, or attempted to disprove, that date, perhaps we might "not have put the matter *vice versa*." 8. Gavin Douglas "became pastor [parson] of Linton and rector of Hauch or Prestonhauch (now Prestonkirk), near Dun-

bar." This still strikes us as most misleading. No one would imagine from it that Linton was a village in Prestonkirk parish. 9. Mr. Henderson suggests on p. 115 that there is no doubt Henryson was a schoolmaster in Dunfermline; if he will turn to Laing's memoir of the Dunfermline poet, pp. xv, xvi, he will learn that there is an element of doubt. 10. Space forbids a discussion of the plot of 'The Freiris of Berwick,' but Mr. Henderson may consult a chapter in Mr. Clouston's 'Popular Tales and Fictions.' 11. It was in the parish church, not the castle chapel, of St. Andrews that Knox preached his first sermon. On that one point Mr. Henderson is right. We could explain how we came to make this slip, but it is not worth while. 12. Three and a half lines still seem too little for Hamilton of Bangour.

Literary Gossip.

JUST as we are going to press, we regret to hear the news of the death of Dr. A. K. H. Boyd.

It is expected that the biography of the late Mr. William Morris will be published soon after Easter.

MR. ALFRED LUBBOCK is engaged in writing some reminiscences of his life at Eton, and of the cricket in which he afterwards took a prominent part. As captain of the Eton eleven, in 1863, he made the then unprecedented score of 174 not out against Winchester; and he subsequently achieved the feat of "topping the century" in Gentlemen v. Players when such feats were few and far between. His book, which will be called 'Memories of Eton and Etonians,' and is to be published by Mr. Murray, will serve to mark some of the changes which have taken place in cricket in the "nineties" as compared with the game in the "sixties."

THE introduction which Mr. Lecky contributed to the new and cheaper edition of his 'Democracy and Liberty,' containing his estimate of Mr. Gladstone, will be issued separately by Messrs. Longman in a few days in octavo form, suitable for binding up with the original edition of the book.

Not long ago the fine copy of the first edition of Scott's 'Waverley' which Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge will sell on Friday next was ideal in every respect—it was absolutely uncut and in the original boards. But its commercial value, at all events, has been greatly impaired by its being rebound in Morocco, and the top edge has been shaved for the purpose of gilding. A complete set of the *Constitutional and Public Ledger*, from its beginning on September 15th, 1836, to its conclusion on July 1st, 1837, will come under the hammer at the same place on the 18th inst. This is one of the rarest and most interesting of Thackerayana, and complete sets seldom come into the market. To the failure of this paper is largely due the fact that Thackeray was compelled to write novels; he was the first Paris correspondent of the paper, and contributed over forty interesting letters signed "T. T.," in addition to writing a large number of literary, art, and miscellaneous notices.

MR. W. S. LILLY has just completed, and will shortly publish through Mr. Murray, a new book called 'First Principles in Politics.' The subjects dealt with are as fol-

lows: 'The Foundation of the State,' 'The Origin of the State,' 'The End of the State,' 'The Functions of the State,' 'The Mechanism of the State,' 'The Corruption of the State,' and 'The Sanctions of the State.'

THE memorial catalogue of the Burns Exhibition, held in Glasgow in 1896, is nearly ready to be published. The book is to contain photogravures of the best-known portraits of Burns, and collotypes of many of the poet's MSS. and titles of various editions of his works. The work will be of much interest to all admirers of Burns. The publishers are Messrs. Hodge & Co. and Messrs. Annan & Sons, both of Glasgow.

THE Booksellers' Provident Retreat will hold its annual meeting next Wednesday. The accounts show the following investments:—General Fund, 12,090*l.*; Permanent Maintenance Fund, 2,708*l.*; Medical Fund, 1,000*l.* In addition to these there is Mr. Henry Wix's legacy of 405*l.* We are glad to observe with what economy the funds are distributed, the expenses, including the secretary's salary, being under 70*l.*

THE forthcoming number of *Folk-lore* will be an unusually controversial one. Mr. Andrew Lang replies at length to Mr. Hartland's criticism of his exposition of Australian mythology, and Mr. Hartland defends his criticism. Mr. Gomme comments upon the late President's discussion of racial elements in British folk-lore, and Mr. Alfred Nutt restates his position. The number also contains the latter's retiring presidential address, entitled 'Britain and Folk-lore.'

THE Readers' Dinner, at which the Hon. W. F. Danvers Smith presided on Saturday last, was a great success, the subscriptions amounting to 207*l.* The surprise of the evening was the announcement made by Sir Henry Burdett that he intended founding a Readers' Pension of the useful amount of 26*l.* per annum. This act of generosity is due to his appreciation of the pains and care shown by the readers employed on 'Burdett's Official Intelligence.'

THE Yorkshire Parish Register Society is making a promising start, apparently. The names of 131 subscribers have been received during the last nine days.

PROF. R. LANCIANI is to be the next Gifford Lecturer at St. Andrews. He will lecture in 1899-1900 and 1900-1. His subject will very likely be the evolution of the idea of God in prehistoric Rome and also in pagan and Christian Rome.

THE decease of Baron de Reuter reminds the world how comparatively recent a creation is the morning newspaper of the present day, which furnishes the reader at his breakfast table with telegraphic despatches from all parts of the world. The Baron had the astuteness to see the opening presented by the telegraph to the person who would take the trouble to collect news, and, in spite of much hostility, he succeeded in establishing himself as purveyor-general to the newspapers. The *Times*, which has always shown a laudable energy in obtaining news, was strongly opposed to him, but at length found it expedient to accept his telegrams as its contemporaries did.

THE eighth and last volume of the valuable 'Complete Peerage' has at length

made its appearance. Its publication has been delayed not only by the long and important list of additions and corrections (extending to nearly three hundred pages) of the entire work, but also by the preparation of a general index to the notes and matters specially discussed, which is contributed by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, M.P. It is now, we believe, some fifteen years since the publication of this important work of reference was begun, and its editor will be generally congratulated on having brought it successfully to a conclusion. The first volume has for some time been out of print, and the second is becoming scarce, but it is still possible to complete sets from the first four volumes of the *Genealogist* (New Series), in which the first instalments of the 'Complete Peerage' were published as a supplement.

THE death is announced at Hanover of the Oriental scholar Prof. H. F. Wüstenfeld, formerly of Göttingen, at the age of ninety-one. His principal literary activity lay in the issue of a number of Arabic works, but he also published numerous original books, among which we may specially mention his 'Geschichte der arabischen Aerzte und Naturforscher' and his 'Vergleichungstabellen der mohammedanischen und christlichen Zeitrechnung.' He also was the author of a number of learned treatises, which were published in the *Transactions* of the Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen.

THE Parliamentary Papers of the most general interest this week are Statute made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford (1*d.*); Reports on the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst (1*d.* each); and a Minute by the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on the Second Report from the Select Committee on the Museums of Science and Art (3*d.*).

SCIENCE

ZOOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

The Play of Animals: a Study of Animal Life and Instinct. By Karl Groos. Translated by Elizabeth L. Baldwin. With a Preface and an Appendix by J. Mark Baldwin. (Chapman & Hall.)—It is by no means play for a reviewer to attempt to give anything approaching an adequate idea of this highly abstruse book by the Professor of Philosophy in the University of Bale, although the preface by the editor, who is professor in Princeton University, is of some assistance. The work is not voluminous, but the statement that it is a contribution to "philosophical biology, animal psychology, and the genetic study of art" will show the nature of the subject. Prof. Groos is not satisfied with the theory, associated with the name of Mr. Herbert Spencer, that play is the result of surplus energy, and he rejects it in favour of the biological conception that play is an instinct developed by natural selection, and calculated to be of use to the young animal in later life, both physically and mentally, if we may use the latter term. The physical influence of play on the animal's frame is, of course, obvious; while, it is claimed, play enables the creature to learn for itself much that would otherwise have to be inherited in the form of special instinct, thus putting a premium on intelligence. Prof. Groos even considers the conclusion admissible that "perhaps the very existence of youth is due in part to the necessity for play; the animal does

not play because he is young, he has a period of youth because he must play"—an utterance that savours of paradox. Two long chapters are devoted to the consideration of animal-play on the biological theory as a basis, and some interesting facts are adduced; but the author weakens his case by stating that many of the observations cited are from a book "which, it must be admitted, does not seem to be always of unimpeachable reliability." We can assure Prof. Groos that there are many other quotations from authors whom he accepts as authorities which are quite as untrustworthy as the above, and although the theory may be good, it is a pity to have it bolstered up by "dog-stories" of a class which have rendered a weekly periodical notorious. In the chapter on "love-play" Prof. Groos lays stress upon the coyness and coquetry of the female, speaking of her as a hunted creature, seldom or never allowed to exercise any choice; but there are important exceptions in birds, and in the case of some of the waders courtship is undoubtedly conducted by the female, while many instances are known of her appropriation of two males during the entire breeding season. We also seem to have read somewhere that the female cassowary is exceedingly tempestuous in her courtship of the male; to say nothing of such low, invertebrate creatures as spiders, and the well-known joke about the female devouring the male after pairing—"the earliest post-nuptial settlement on record." In the last chapter the author leads up "to the central idea of the whole conception, namely, 'joy in being a cause,' which seems to be the psychic accompaniment of the most elementary of all plays, namely, experimentation"; while in the concluding portion he investigates the more subtle psychic phenomenon that is connected with the subject, namely, "make-believe" or "conscious self-illusion." This will be treated more exhaustively in the Professor's next work, which will have human play for its subject.

Wild Animals I have Known (Nutt) is a charming little book, with 200 illustrations, by Ernest Seaton Thompson, naturalist to the Government of Manitoba. No one whose sheep have not been devoured can fail to feel pity for the end of the career of Lobo, the exceedingly bold, bad dog-wolf of the Currumpaw district, and even the despoiled ranchmen experienced something like remorse at being driven to employ the corpse of his favourite Blanca to lure him to his doom. The story of Bingo is infinitely pathetic, and so is that of the Springfield fox, although the Spartan determination of the vixen in killing her cub rather than leave him in slavery must be somewhat imaginary. Capitally told is the story of Wully, the sheep-dog who lived a double life: a faithful guardian of the flocks by day, a cunning, bloodthirsty monster by night. These are the stories which have most appealed to us; but all the rest are good, and we have never met with a writer who has surpassed Mr. Thompson in putting himself "inside the skin" of the animals he describes. His work may be bracketed with 'The Jungle Book,' and it has the advantage in its spirited vignettes, to say nothing of the full-page illustrations.

Four-footed Americans and their Kin. By Mabel O. Wright. (Macmillan & Co.)—This book belongs to a class, more common on the other side of the Atlantic than this, in which a modicum of natural history information is scattered through a bewildering and tiresome amount of infantile inanities. We cannot believe that English boys and girls would care for it—at any rate we hope not!

Zoological Record. Vol. XXXIV. (Gurney & Jackson.)—We have to congratulate Dr. David Sharp on the appearance of the stout volume which deals with what is absurdly called the zoological literature of 1897, well before the end of 1898. Notwithstanding some errors of judg-

ment and of expression that should not have escaped the editor, we must confess to a feeling of regret that we may possibly not have this yearly record much longer. We refer, of course, to the proposal for a general catalogue under the auspices of the Royal Society; this may or may not be a success. The veteran zoological bibliographer Prof. Carus has expressed his objections in a pungent notice, which has not, so far as we know, been answered. The risk is that the scheme should fail after a few years, during which the 'Zoological Record' may have died. We can, therefore, only hope that the Zoological Society of London will not give up its courageous task of financing the present 'Record' until it shall have been satisfactorily shown that the Royal Society has prepared a workable and efficient scheme.

A Classification of Vertebrata, Recent and Extinct. By Hans Gadow. (Black.)—This brief volume forms a handbook more trustworthy and authoritative than "classifications" of animals ordinarily are; but a *précis* of this kind is not often produced by a person in the position of the author. The few points which we have marked for correction are of secondary importance, and will no doubt be paraded by others in more specialist journals. The more general reader will find that the only part which will interest him is the index of technical terms, with suitable explanations.

The Badger: a Monograph. By Alfred E. Pease, M.P. (Lawrence & Bullen.)—Mr. Pease has written an interesting and attractive little book on the badger, an animal which he obviously knows well, and which, at times, he has put himself to some discomfort to secure. We are glad to be able to quote the following:—

"I am familiar with several successful ways of trapping him. The reader, if he is not aware of these, must not expect me to enlighten him."

The Angora Goat. By S. C. Cronwright Schreiner. (Longmans & Co.)—Save for the interest which, it may be supposed, we all now take in things African, it is difficult to understand why the author should ask for general attention to a not very interesting book, which is published under the auspices of the South African Angora Goat Breeders' Association. The management of goats in Turkey appears, from the author's account, to be on a par with the general administration of that country.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 23.—Lord Lister, President, in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Order of Appearance of Chemical Substances at Different Stellar Temperatures,' by Sir J. N. Lockyer; 'The Efficiency of Man; or, Economic Coefficient of the Human Machine,' by Dr. Marcet and Mr. R. B. Floris; 'Some Experiments bearing on the Theory of Voltaic Action,' by Mr. J. Brown; and 'Deposition of Barium Sulphate as a Cementing Material of Sandstone,' by Dr. F. Clowes.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Feb. 16.—Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, V.P., in the chair.—The Rev. Edgar Hoskins exhibited a silver communion cup and cover belonging to the church of St. Martin Ludgate. The bowl of the cup is of the ordinary deep bell-shape, with London hall-marks for 1559-60, but the stem, knot, and foot are those of a chalice with hall-marks for 1507-8. This earlier work is of beautiful design and workmanship, and on the spread of the foot is pounced a black-letter inscription: "Praye for the salles of stewyn pekoc & margat hys wyff wyche gave thys in the wussheppe of the sacrament." The first five and the last six words have subsequently been partly erased. The paten is of the usual cover type, with the initials CL HR on the button, and bears the London hall-marks for 1575-6.—Mr. F. Haverfield communicated a note on the excavation of a Roman road in Blenheim Park, Oxford.—Mr. A. T. Martin, as local secretary for Gloucestershire, reported (1) the discovery of some ancient walling on the south side of Bristol Cathedral; (2) recent finds during the demolition of Pithay; (3) excavations on Brandon Hill; (4) excavations at Caerwent; and (5) various discoveries in Bristol. Mr. Martin also submitted particulars of a scheme for the systematic excavation of the

Romano-British town at Caerwent.—Mr. H. W. Price communicated particulars of excavations conducted by him on Sittie river, British Honduras.

FEB. 23.—Viscount Dillon, President, in the chair.—Mr. Read exhibited an English gold ring of the fourteenth century found in Middlesex, inscribed: "Qui plus despetit qua li na fiert sans colp ferir a mort se fiert."—Sir J. C. Robinson exhibited: (1) a reliquary of the fifteenth century in the form of two silver-gilt angels holding up a Chinese crystal vase, from the church Del Carmen at Pinaranda, near Salamanca; (2) a circular metallic mirror, in silver-gilt and jewelled mounting, with an enamelled back, all of fine Flemish work, c. 1468-77, with the mottoes of Charles the Bold and Margaret of York; (3) a gold enamelled medallion with figure of St. Michael, probably the back of a Flemish mirror, c. 1460-70; (4) a small gold and enamelled tablet, c. 1350, perhaps part of a belt or book clasp; (5) a red velvet altar frontal, made up of portions of a tester or canopy of estate embroidered in gold thread with the badges and initials of the Emperor Maximilian and Mary of Burgundy, c. 1500; (6) a dagger and pair of knives in a sheath of chiselled steel with the arms of Austria on the hilt, c. 1520-1530; (7) a silver enamelled inkstand of Hispano-Maresco work, c. 1490; (8) a silver-gilt casket inlaid with slabs of onyx, the work of Juan de Arphe of Villafane, c. 1540-60; and (9) photographs of the gold and enamelled pax in the treasury of the cathedral church of Valencia.—Mr. Read exhibited a gold breastplate from the Republic of Colombia.—Major Myers also exhibited a number of gold ornaments from Chibcha tombs in Colombia.—Mr. W. H. St. John Hope read a paper on further discoveries in the nave of the cathedral church of Norwich, including (1) the finding of the vault and remains of Bishop Lyhert beneath the doorway of the well-known screen built by him at the west end of the choir; (2) the discovery of a brick grave before the choir door, in which were found a skeleton and a gilt-copper ring; (3) the finding of the base of the rood-screen between the fourth pair of piers; and (4) of two other medieval brick graves west of this screen, one containing a wood coffin with a skeleton, perhaps of Roger de Middleton, sacrist. By the courtesy of the Dean and Chapter a wooden crossier-head from Lyhert's grave, the gilt-copper ring, and some pieces of carved stonework found under the nave floor were also exhibited.

LINNEAN.—Feb. 16.—Dr. A. Günther, President, in the chair.—Mr. W. B. Bannerman, Mr. C. Crossland, and the Hon. N. C. Rothschild were elected Fellows; and Mr. J. Storrer was elected an Associate.—Mr. Clement Reid exhibited some fruits of *Najas minor*, Allione, and of *Najas graminea*, Delile, found in the interglacial deposits at West Wittering. *Najas minor* is distributed throughout Europe, except in the north, and in Britain; *Najas graminea* is found in the tropics of the Old World as well as in the Mediterranean region. In Britain, where it has been accidentally introduced, it has been found in a canal which receives waste hot water from a factory.—A discussion followed, in which Messrs. Rendle, H. Groves, and Melvill took part.—Dr. A. B. Rendle exhibited specimens of a freshwater Alga (*Pithophora*) new to Britain; additional remarks were made by Messrs. A. W. Bennett and Clement Reid.—Mr. G. C. Bourne read a paper on the genus *Lemnalia*, Gray, with an account of the branching systems of the order Alcyonacea.—Messrs. I. H. Burkill and C. H. Wright read a paper 'On some African Labiate with Alternate Leaves,' a peculiarity which had been recently used by M. Hua to characterize a new genus, *Icomum*. To this genus three new species were now added. Its affinity was said to be with *Æolanthus*, in which certain irregularities in the arrangement of the bracts of the inflorescence and flowers might be observed. The types of the new species described were stated to be in the herbarium at Kew Gardens.—Dr. O. Stapf and Dr. Rendle spoke.—Messrs. J. Cosmo Melvill and R. Standen communicated a 'Report on the Marine Mollusca obtained during the First Expedition of Prof. A. C. Haddon to the Torres Straits.' Over 400 forms of Gastropoda and Pelecypoda were collected, together with a few Polyclaphora. Twenty-four novelties were described, one of the most noteworthy being a neritoid mollusc allied on the one hand to *Vanicoro* and on the other to *Nerita*, for which the generic name *Magadis* was proposed. *Pholadomya haddoni* was described as a new species.—A discussion followed on the distribution of the Mollusca in the Australian region, in which the President and Mr. E. H. Sykes took part.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Feb. 21.—Prof. G. B. Howes, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. A. Smith Woodward read a paper, by Dr. F. P. Moreno and himself, on a piece of skin supposed to belong to the *Neomylodon listai* of Ameghino, from a cavern near Consuelo Cove, Patagonia. Dr. Moreno maintained that the specimen in question was of great antiquity, and belonged to

the extinct ground-sloth, *Myodon*. He mentioned that he had found a well-preserved mummified human body in another cavern in the district, which certainly belonged to an extinct race, unknown even to the present Tehuelche Indians. Mr. Woodward pointed out that the skin was unique, even for an edentate, in having the armour of ossicles confined to the lower half of the dermis, while the covering of hair was implanted in every part of the upper half. He thought he could recognize in it the base of the left ear, and concluded that the piece of skin had probably belonged to the neck. It certainly represented an animal quite as large as *Myodon*; but he noted discrepancies in the microscopical structure of the dermal ossicles, which inclined him to believe in its generic distinctness. The problem could not be solved, because the dermal armour of *Myodon* had only been definitely described in the lumbar region, and it was quite possible that the ossicles in the flexible neck of the animal might not agree with those in the comparatively rigid back above the pelvis. If Dr. Moreno had not been able to give so circumstantial an account of the discovery, Mr. Woodward would have unhesitatingly pronounced the skin to belong to an animal killed quite lately.—Communications were read: from Mr. P. W. Bassett-Smith on the formation of the coral reefs on the north-west coast of Australia, special attention being called to the part played by massive Polyzoa in forming coral reefs,—from Mr. G. A. Boulenger on a collection of reptiles and batrachians made by Mr. J. D. La Touche in North-West Fokien (eight species were described as new to science, amongst which was a snake belonging to a new genus, most nearly allied to *Opisthotropis* of Günther, proposed to be called *Tapinophis latouchii*, after its discoverer),—and from Sir G. F. Hampson, containing the second portion of his 'Revision of the Moths of the Subfamily Pyraustinae of the Family Pyralidae.'

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Feb. 15.—Mr. G. H. Verrall, President, in the chair.—Mr. J. E. Collin was elected a Fellow.—Mr. B. A. Bower exhibited perfectly black melanic examples of *Boarmia abietaria*, Hb., bred from ova laid by a female of the ordinary Box Hill form, which was captured on July 9th, 1897. They were part of a brood of seventeen, seven of which were of the black aberration; and for comparison with them he showed specimens from Box Hill, South Devon, and the New Forest.—Mr. Blandford exhibited some lumps of common salt burrowed by larvae of *Dermestes vulpinus*, to which he had incidentally referred in a letter just published in *Nature*. He had on various occasions called attention to depredations of *Dermestes vulpinus*, arising from a habit the larvae had of burrowing through different materials in order to find a shelter in which to undergo pupation, though this was the first time that salt as a substance attacked in that way had come under his notice.—Mr. J. J. Walker said he believed one of the earliest references to injuries caused by *Dermestes* was to be found in 'The Last Voyage of Thomas Candish,' where there was an interesting account of certain worms which, bred from a stock of dried penguins, proceeded to devour the whole of the ship's stores and then to gnaw into the timbers, creating great alarm lest the ship should spring a leak. This voyage took place in the year 1593, and the worms, he thought, could only have been the larvae of *Dermestes vulpinus* or some closely allied species.—Dr. T. A. Chapman read a 'Contribution to the Life-History of *Micropteryx (Eriocephala) amannella*, Hubn.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Feb. 28.—Sir W. White, V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was 'On Improvements in Dioptric Apparatus for Lighthouses,' by Mr. W. T. Douglass and Mr. J. A. Purves.

PHYSICAL.—Feb. 24.—Prof. Perry, V.P., in the chair.—A paper by Mr. E. F. J. Love, 'On the Joule-Thomson Effect and its Connexion with the Characteristic Equation, and some of its Thermodynamical Consequences,' was read by Mr. Watson.

HELLENIC.—Feb. 23.—Mr. Talfourd Ely in the chair.—Prof. Ernest Gardner read a paper on a head of Athena of the school of Alcámenes, which was formerly in the Disney collection, and had recently come into the possession of Mr. Philip Nelson, by whose kind permission it was published. The head, from its style, evidently belongs to the Attic school of the closing years of the fifth century, and shows a very remarkable expression of kindly reverie. All indications point to Alcámenes or his immediate surroundings. The head evidently is identical in type with the Athena from Crete in the Louvre, who holds a snake in a box—evidently Erichonius—on her left arm and ægis. This Athena had already been associated with Alcámenes by Dr. Reich upon external evidence. Other heads

—notably the Glienicke head of Athena—are evidently variations on the same type, though they belong to a different set of statues. A statue in Berlin resembles the Cretan Athena, but has a child instead of the snake, and in position approximates to the 'Eirene and Plutus' of Cephissodorus; and a similar motive and expression recur in the 'Hermes' of Praxiteles. Casts were exhibited both of the Athena and of the athlete in Dr. Nelson's possession, published in the *Hellenic Journal* last year. The cast showed that this last head is more Polycolitan in style than one would suppose, judging only from the photograph.—Mr. G. F. Hill, while suggesting that the Athena seen by Pausanias was of the type (known from coins and marble copies) in which her left hand rests on her hip, pointed out that although the cults of Hephaestus and Athena Hephestia were combined at Athens, she perhaps took her name rather from Hephestia in Lemnos, where both deities were worshipped, and that the name Lemnian attached to an Athena by Phidias was to be similarly explained.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.—Feb. 20.—Mr. Faber in the chair.—The Rev. A. E. Shaw read a paper 'On the Earliest Latin Grammars in English.' The books in common use in the fifteenth century for younger scholars were the 'Graecismus' of Eberhard of Bethune, the 'Synonyma' and 'Vocabula' of John Garland, with their extension by G. Groet, the 'Doctrinale' of Alexander de Villa Dei, and the 'Donatus.' All these came early into the printers' hands, and were in use in Erasmus's schooldays at Deventer. In England there was a movement of purely native growth in favour of an increased attention to Latin grammar. The centre of this movement was Magdalen School, Oxford, founded on the linked school and college system to provide preliminary training for Magdalen College. The first Informator, John Anwykyl, published a 'Compendium totius Grammaticae,' drawn largely from Perottus, and in an appendix to it, the 'Vulgaria quadam abs Terentio,' introduced a new system of working through the vernacular. The book was printed at Oxford by T. Rood. Another early Oxford book, a Latin syntax, which survives only in two leaves found in a binding, was probably also the work of Anwykyl, who, in 1487, was succeeded at Magdalen School by John Stanbrige, a Winchester and New College man. Stanbrige's is the best-known name in the grammatical movement, but the attribution to him of the 'Longe Parvula' printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1509 is probably due to the resemblance of the opening words to those of the 'Parvulorum Institutio ex Stanbrigiana Collectione.' The 'Longe Parvula' itself is only a reprint of the early Oxford grammar, and should be assigned to Anwykyl. The opening question and answer—"What shalt thou do when thou hast an Englysshe to make in Latyn? I shal reherse myn Englysshe ones, twyes, or thryes, and loke out myn pyncypal and ask the question who or what"—left its trace on many subsequent works. The 'Vulgaria' of Anwykyl were imitated by Stanbrige in 'Vulgaria' used at Colet's foundation, St. Paul's. As classical models his sentences were no improvement, and their choice of subject left much to be desired. Horman's 'Introductorium Linguae Latinae' was printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1499, and his 'Vulgaria' by Pynson. The 'Vulgaria,' 'Accidentia,' and 'Parvula' furnished Robert Whittington with materials for his own numerous school-books. Holt's 'Lae Puerorum' was printed both by Pynson and by Wynkyn de Worde, and fragments of a third edition, printed at Antwerp by Adriaen van Berghen, survive at Oxford and Cambridge. Another fragment, belonging to the Rev. Cecil Deedes, was exhibited at the meeting.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. Royal Academy, 4.—'Charlot Groups,' Dr. A. S. Murray.
Victoria Institute, 4½.—'The Nature of Life, Part II,' Prof. L. Beale.
—Royal Institution, 5.—General Monthly.
—Institute of Actuaries, 5½.—'The Companies Acts,' Lecture V., Mr. A. C. Clauson.
—Society of Engineers, 7½.—'The Shan Hill Country and the Mandalay Railway,' Mr. E. Wynter Wagstaff.
—Society of Arts, 8.—'Cycle Construction and Design,' Lecture III, Mr. A. Sharp. (Cantor Lectures.)
—Surveyors' Institution, 8.—'The Working of the Light Railway Act, 1886,' Mr. F. J. Smith.
—Institute of British Architects, 8.—'Some Early Christian Churches in Palestine,' Mr. A. C. Dickie.
Tues. Royal Institution, 3.—'The Morphology of the Molluscs,' Lecture VIII., Prof. E. Ray Lankester.
—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'Water-Tube Boilers for Marine Engines,' Mr. J. T. Milton. 'Recent Trials of the Machinery of Warships,' Sir A. J. Burton and Mr. H. J. Oram.
—Society of Biblical Archaeology, 8.—'The Babylonian Analogies for the Egyptian Alphabet,' Rev. J. C. Bail.
—Zoological, 8½.—'Exhibition of and Remarks upon Specimens of the Medusa of Lake Tanganyika,' Mr. J. E. S. Moore. 'On the Chimpanzees and their Relationship to the Gorilla,' Dr. A. Keith. 'On the Myology of the Edentata,' Dr. C. A. Windle and Prof. F. G. Varscoe.
Wed. United Service Institution, 3.—'Naval Lessons from the Spanish-American War,' Vice-Admiral P. H. Colomb.
—Society of Arts, 8.—'Cornish Mines and Miners,' Mr. J. H. Collins.
—Geological, 8.—'The Evolution of the Genus *Micraster*,' Dr. A. W. Rowe. 'A Sill and Faulted Inlier in Tidswell Dale, Derbyshire,' Mr. H. Arnold-Seaton.
—Huguenot, 8.—'An Old Huguenot Account-Book from the Pas de Calais, 1660-81,' Mr. W. Minet.

- Thurs. Royal Institution, 3.—'English Playhouses,' Lecture I., Mr. W. Ford.
—Royal Academy, 4.—'Neo-Attic Sculpture,' Dr. A. S. Murray.
—Royal, 4½.
—Society of Arts, 4½.—'Leprosy in India,' Mr. H. A. Acworth.
—Mathematical, 8.—Note by Prof. Burnside.
—Institution of Electrical Engineers, 8.
—Society of Antiquaries, 8½.
Fri. Physical, 5.—'A Study of an Apparatus for the Determination of the Rate of Diffusion of Solids dissolved in Liquids' and 'Note on the Source of Energy in Diffusive Convection,' Mr. A. Griffiths. 'Dr. A. Wehnelt's Electrolytic Current Inter-ruptor for Ruhmkorff Coils,' Mr. A. C. Swinton.
—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'The Construction of the Elan Aqueduct, Birmingham Waterworks,' Mr. H. Lapworth. (Students' Meeting.)
—Philological, 8.—'The Latinity of Domesday Book,' Mr. J. H. Hessel.
—Royal Institution, 9.—'Measuring Extreme Temperatures,' Prof. H. L. Callendar.
Sat. Royal Institution, 3.—'The Mechanical Properties of Bodies,' Lecture V., Lord Rayleigh.

Science Gossip.

Two new small planets are announced under the joint names of Prof. Max Wolf and Herr Schwassmann. They were photographically discovered at Königstuhl, Heidelberg, the first on the 15th and the second on the 17th ult.; the former was telescopically observed by Prof. Millosevich at Rome on the 18th.

PROF. RICHTER, of Graz, who succeeded Forel as President of the Commission Internationale des Glaciers, has just issued the third yearly report, dealing with the variations of the glaciers under observation in 1897. Out of the 56 glaciers in Switzerland observed by the Commission, 39 are reported as "retreating," 5 as "at a still-stand," and 12 as "growing." According to the report on the Italian glaciers by Prof. Marinelli, those of the Disgrazia and Bernina groups show a marked retreat, and also the glacier of Mont Canin in the Julian Alps. In Scandinavia, as reported by Oyen and Svenonius, the retreat of the glaciers may be said to be almost universal. The report includes information from the Caucasus, Altai, and Turkestan, and notes on a few glaciers in the United States and Mexico.

THE House of Commons has long allowed its members at their sweet will to spell "phosphorus" in various fashions in their questions. But a Return has now been presented of reports by Prof. Thorpe, Dr. Oliver, and Dr. George Cunningham, the dental surgeon, on the use of phosphorus in the manufacture of lucifer matches, which is doubly described in the Votes and Proceedings of the House, although an official report to the Home Secretary, as being on "the use of Phosphorous."

FINE ARTS

Modern Opera-Houses and Theatres. By Edwin O. Sachs. Vol. III. and Supplement. (Batsford.)

THIS volume, which concludes Mr. Sachs's monumental work, is in some respects the most generally interesting of the three, since it includes considerable collections of comparative diagrams of the general plans of theatres, plans of the auditorium, and sections. These, drawn all to the same small scale and omitting details, enable the reader to take a general view of the principles (or we should rather say the practice, for there does not seem much of principle in the matter) of plan and design illustrated in modern theatres. The supplement, dealing mainly with stage construction and appliances in detail, is calculated to excite the curiosity of the general reader, who here finds the explanation of the stage phenomena of which he ordinarily sees only the illusory results.

In treating of the general conception of the theatre as a work of architecture, Mr. Sachs first draws attention to the question of arrangement of site, illustrated by a number of block plans. In the first place stands

the practical question of convenience of access and safety of exit, in regard to which many of our London theatres are very badly situated. Space all round, with direct exit to the street on every side, is the ideal position, seldom attained in this country.

"The essence of straightforward theatre planning is symmetry and safety, which are practically impossible when one side is blocked by adjoining property."

But the general exterior effect, architecturally, is also an element for consideration. In this respect it is significant to compare the block plans of sites on p. 13. In all the foreign examples but one the house has open space all round it, and the plans are symmetrical blocks. The two London examples, D'Oyly Carte's Opera-House (now the Palace Music-Hall) and the Garrick Theatre, are, on plan, shapeless lumps of building, without a right angle in them; the site is not designed or laid out at all, the building is simply squeezed into the space available. The plate of numerous block plans of theatres (independent of site) facing p. 15 shows at a glance the amount of space occupied by stage and auditorium in relation to the whole plan of the building, the shape of the stage and auditorium, and the relation of the exterior lines of the plan to the shape of the auditorium—at least, where there is any relation. In many cases there is none, the external mass of the building conveying no intimation of the existence of a principal chamber in theatre form within it. What strikes one also is the immense extent of ground covered, in the larger theatres, by what should be the merely accessory portion of the structure. This fact is significant of the extent to which the theatre has in modern times become quite as much a place of social display and promenading as a home of dramatic art. With the Greeks and Romans the boundaries of auditorium and stage were pretty nearly continuous with the boundaries of the building; in the largest modern theatres and opera-houses the auditorium and stage occupy but a small portion of the plan. On the plate in question the little Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon is the only plan which has the simplicity of the Greek theatre, and seems designed solely with the idea that "the play's the thing."

A theatre of the largest size cannot, of course, be restricted to the mere auditorium; ample stairs and cloak-rooms must, at all events, be provided, since the climate does not admit of the simplicity of the open-air *cavea* (Bradfield notwithstanding). But what strikes us is that so few of the modern architects who build theatres evince any real grasp of the significance and suggestiveness of the architectural problem. Essentially, a theatre consists of two distinct portions with perfectly distinct requirements—the auditorium, which must be planned on more or less concentric lines, and in which it is an object to keep down height (for no portion of the audience should view the stage from a higher angle than can be helped); and the stage portion, in which squareness of plan is required for convenience of working, and height is required for drawing up scenery. The natural architectural treatment is

a grand sweep round the curve of the auditorium, with horizontal lines predominating, stopped by and contrasted with the vertical square mass of the stage portion. Few problems could be more suggestive in regard to architectural character. In some few cases, as in Schröter's design for the proposed St. Petersburg Opera-House, in the "Court" and "Raimund" theatres at Vienna, and the Municipal Theatre at Odessa, this curved sweep of the auditorium is recognized and embodied in the design. In England it is almost invariably ignored. In Paris the new Opéra Comique might just as well be a concert hall, as far as external design is concerned. In England this waste of opportunities is partly due to the fact that the higher class of architect is never asked or allowed to build a theatre. He is not the sort of person who is wanted. Mr. Colcutt is the only architect of eminence in a general sense whose name has been in recent times connected with a London theatre, and he merely consented to design a decorative outer skin for D'Oyly Carte's Opera-House, which is not designing a theatre. The architects who design theatres have commonly little reputation as architectural artists, but they become what are called theatre "specialists." Mr. Sachs seems rather in favour of the specialist; we should say that, from the architectural point of view, he is a nuisance. He knows, no doubt, exactly what is wanted to meet the requirements of the manager and the official authorities over buildings of that class, and to make the scheme a paying concern. Then he puts the conventional dressing of pilasters on the exterior, and turns a firm of trading decorators into the interior. And that is all the chance we have of getting a theatre which is a work of art in itself, as it ought to be and might be.

The plates of block sections of theatres on a later page of the book show clearly again how far we have got from the ideal conception of a theatre. The tiers of projecting galleries make the upper part of the auditorium a series of caves which swallow up sound, and out of which those seated in them, except in the two front rows, can only see partially and with inconvenience. Wagner, though his theatre externally is but a poor piece of architectural commonplace, hit on the true method for the auditorium in treating it as one easy slope from the stage to the back of the house, with no galleries projecting over it. His plan has been further developed in the plan of the Sturmhöfel "model theatre," shown on p. 52 of Mr. Sachs's book, where the auditorium spreads out from the stage something like a fan, the seats arranged in a segment of a circle of large radius, which is expressed on the exterior of the building, where the flights of stairs are arranged in lines normal to the curve. It would be rather difficult to make such a treatment architecturally effective inside; but it is in some such direction as this—in the direction of greater simplicity and unity of plan and design, and the abrogation of tiers of galleries—that we may expect to see improvement in theatrical architecture carried out. Of course, we have the difficulty in England that theatres receive no support whatever from Government or municipalities, as they mostly do abroad, and it is supposed, there-

fore, that at all costs they must have seats enough to make them pay a certain dividend; and that is done, in many cases, at the cost of spoiling the whole house for its intended purpose.

Theatre decoration is, partly for reasons already suggested, a rather sad subject. It appears to be assumed by common consent that a theatre must be "showy" in the interior; it is not so much a question of the quality of the decoration as that there should be a great quantity of it. No doubt theatre decoration has shared in the general improvement in decorative taste in this country of late years; but it is still nearly always overdone. One would like to see greater simplicity, and more real design, in the true sense of the word; but this can never be as long as everything is wanted in the greatest possible hurry, for commercial reasons. In Paris the Opéra Comique is being decorated with mural and ceiling paintings by some of the most eminent artists of the day; but no English theatre syndicate will, or perhaps could, afford this, seeing that they must depend entirely on their own purse. In connexion with the subject of decorative treatment, we observe that Mr. Sachs mentions, but without deprecating it, the practice, when there is a deep proscenium frame, of forming boxes in the jamb of the proscenium arch, between the inner and outer arch. These, which are generally only occupied by such as come *spectantur ut ipsæ*, are bad in every way; they swallow up sound which ought to get into the house, and they destroy the æsthetic value of the deep proscenium arch (especially in opera) in separating the real world of the house from the ideal world of the stage.

Readers of the supplement on stage construction and machinery will probably be surprised to find how very naïve and antiquated are many of the stock devices still used in England for the production of stage transformations and of built-up scenery, and how little use is made of modern mechanism and modern means of applying power. Some improvements have just been made at Drury Lane (under Mr. Sachs's direction); but the Germans are far before us in this respect. In the "Asphaleia" system (which, however, is not in extensive use as yet) the stage floor, divided into small platforms, each of which can be raised, lowered, or tilted by hydraulic machinery, becomes practically a surface which can be modelled at will. The admitted drawback to this plan is that the space under the floor, often wanted for other purposes, is too much occupied with machinery. A special contrivance worth mention is Herr Lautenschlaeger's turntable stage, in which the greater portion of the stage is an immense circular turntable; and it is shown how the whole of the scenes required for 'Don Juan' were built up on this, in two sets, each scene being turned towards the audience as required, only a very brief drop of the curtain being necessary. This would be very useful for small theatres and for plays or operas where no great scenic effects are required; but not otherwise. Even the two principal finales of 'Don Juan' must have been rather cramped in the representation.

We may congratulate the author on the completion of a work which must have

entailed immense labour, and which, among books of this class, is quite remarkable for extent and thoroughness.

THE REMBRANDT EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE exhibition which the Keeper of the Prints has formed proves to demonstration what has long been an article of faith in English art circles—that, on the whole, the Print Room contains an unparalleled collection of Rembrandt's etchings, if not of his drawings. At Amsterdam and Paris there are to be found a limited number of first-rate impressions from his plates, some of which are unique, while others are almost as rare; but at Bloomsbury there are as many unique impressions and quite as many rarities, while the aggregate is greater, and its general level is higher, than in either of the other capitals. And it must be clearly understood that the impressions now on view, nearly three hundred in number, are not all the British Museum possesses, but only the best of every class. Besides these, there are in the cases there eighty-four drawings in bistre or indian ink by the master himself; a few by men who worked in his manner; etchings by other masters, his contemporaries, but not necessarily his followers, some of which are of extraordinary merit—for instance, Lievens's *Raising of Lazarus* (No. 298); and a nondescript group of etchings by skilled hands, some of whom are still among us.

We can only find space to speak of the first group. Many of the examples in it came into the possession of the nation in 1753, when the treasures of Sir Hans Sloane were bought; while in 1799 that magnificent benefactor the Rev. C. M. Cracherode bequeathed to the Trustees so splendid a series of Rembrandt's etchings that it supplies about two-thirds of the examples now on view. Then came the bequest of Mr. F. Slade, and the Trustees' purchases from the Malcolm and other collections. Visitors will find that Mr. Colvin, without dogmatizing upon the contradictory views of various critics as to the genuineness of this or that particular etching, has, by marking a certain number of the works which may be said to invite discussion, offered suggestions which no one ought to overlook when, as is now the case, they are put distinctly before him.

One of the difficulties experienced by students of Rembrandt is in establishing a chronology of his works. The difficulty of doing this for his pictures and drawings is as nothing compared with the perplexities that beset the devotee who takes up the etchings. Mr. Colvin, adopting in the main the views of W. von Seidlitz, has arranged the contents of his cases in what, certain puzzling examples excepted, is undoubtedly the correct chronological order, and massed the whole in three main groups, beginning with the dated head of *Rembrandt's Mother* (1), the likeness of an elderly woman, not at all like, by the way, the person whose portrait figures as No. 1 in the current exhibition at the Royal Academy. It is dated 1628, and chiefly important as showing how extraordinary, the etcher being but twenty-one years old at the time, was his technical skill, and as making evident that no draughtsman with the needle has surpassed him, and that he had already mastered the essential powers, qualities, and limits of etching. The arrangements adopted greatly facilitate study; for not only are the etchings arranged chronologically, but the various states, even to the sixth state, of each are displayed alongside the first known condition, and, in several cases, impressions taken while parts of the copper were still untouched—that is blank, or "in the white." These are of value because they serve to show how, with them at least, if not invariably, Rembrandt worked, finishing, or nearly finishing, his plate part by part, much as Holbein and the German school of painters used

generally to do with their pictures. This arrangement has its value, too, in making it clear at a glance what specimens are unique and what is the degree of rarity of every impression. Some of the earlier states indicate the marvellous delicacy and precision of the master's touch, his consummate draughtsmanship, and the care he expended on his work. The obelus indicating a print which has been doubted illustrates another detail of the exceedingly careful arrangement which the visitor owes to the Keeper. Doubts of this nature are somewhat excessively numerous, and when they are founded upon nothing but the relative inferiority of the plate's workmanship, and not upon lack of vigour or spirit, we do not in every instance share them. No. 100a, *The Descent from the Cross*, was taken from the second etched plate by Rembrandt; it in our eyes disproves the doubts of those who have awarded it to various (and totally dissimilar) hands, and we accept Dr. H. de Groot's opinion of the genuineness of this magnificent etching; no one has ventured to doubt the design being his. Some inferior parts do not discredit it in our opinion. Rembrandt was not invariably at his best, and a great deal of factitious ingenuity has been expended on his etchings. The prints marked with obeli extend from No. 752 to No. 783, and this group is full of instruction, even for accomplished students. It does not include all the works on which the touches of pupils and followers are more or less manifest. As to that, of course, we agree with those "later students"—to use Mr. Colvin's phrase—who accept the long renowned and extremely brilliant large etching *The Good Samaritan* (93) as in the main the work of Rembrandt, in which Bol had little or no hand. There are, it would seem, more foreign touches in the third state than in any other. No. 98b may be mentioned as a specimen of the great wealth of the Museum in examples which have been touched by Rembrandt himself with chalk, pencil, or ink, with a view to changes in the composition, the tonality, or even the design. Representing the third state of the plate, it seems to us to be the finest of them. The Department does not possess an example of the second state, although it is much less rare. In the naive and animated face of the woman who sat for No. 106, *Rembrandt's Wife, Saskia*, that comely dame is far more truly represented than in other works, pictures included, which bear her name; the famous group at Cassel, where she sits on her husband's knee, shows the same face. The *Woman Reading* (107) is, we think, another likeness of Saskia, and the so-called *Great Jewish Bride* (126) is manifestly Saskia, and no Jewess. The *Angel appearing to the Shepherds* (108), of which three states are before us, illustrates the etcher at his culminating point, especially in the rendering of the atmosphere, the wonderfully subtle grading, and remarkable wealth of tone. The first state of *Jan Uytenbogaert's* portrait (127) is of value in the opinion of experts. Nothing can surpass its limpidity, finish, and solidity. No portrait by Rembrandt is more intensely pathetic; and only that marvel, *Ephraim Bonus*, of which several instances may be studied in this gallery, including impressions with the dark and the light ring respectively, excels it in dramatic force and artistic power. In delicacy of touch Jan Uytenbogaert's portrait, of course, is superior. There is a little sootiness in the shadows—due, perhaps, to the quality of the paper it was printed on—in No. 127a. The head and shoulders only appear in this—a unique example, and of incomparable softness. No. 127d shows the completed work, but it is not innocent of foreign touches. In No. 134a, the large plate of *Christ before Pilate*, is an impression showing a space still "in the white," and, of course, of the extremest rarity. It goes without saying that it stands for a first state. No. 134d exhibits the fourth or finished condition of this masterpiece, as it is best known

to the world. Nos. 162a and 162b, the first and second states respectively of the likeness of *Uytenbogaert, the Receiver-General*, commonly known as 'The Gold-Weigher,' are extremely fine. As is frequently the case with Rembrandts, the second state, which is delightfully full of "bur," is the better work of art, and quite a typical piece.

The second period of Rembrandt as an etcher is made to begin in this gallery with the comparatively little-known *Beheading of John the Baptist* (165), which does, indeed, emphasize the increased use by the artist of dry point to reinforce his etched work. The *Cornelis C. Anso* (177a), a first state, is much more refined than its fellow, No. 177b, a second state. This is by no means an uncommon circumstance, and it goes far to show how rapid and great must have been the popularity of some of these etchings. Changes to which second and later states were due were sometimes effected with the dry point and sometimes with the acid, use of which constitutes an etching properly so called. Among the latter, owing to its fame and great merits, though not, perhaps, the rarity of choice examples, *St. Jerome in a Dark Chamber* (197), which is Bartsch's No. 105, is conspicuous. The second state (197b), which belonged to Sir Hans Sloane, and is signed "Rembrandt" and dated 1642, is a truly admirable example, as full of power as it is of poetry and pathetic expression. It is supposed to be the work of a pupil or imitator of the master. The late Mr. Malcolm's impression of the renowned *Landscape with Three Trees* (201b) is from the second state of the plate, and artistically it is superior to No. 201a, an impression in the first state. The superb *Jan Cornelis Sylvius* (219a) is an impression of great charm and rarity upon Japanese paper. There is, too, much to admire in the impressions of the portrait already mentioned of *Ephraim Bonus* in both the states. The later, which is distinguished by the ring on the old physician's forefinger being white, is the better; but, on account of its exceeding scarceness, collectors and amateurs attach extreme value to No. 220a. For instance, the late M. Dutuit, of Rouen, gave for a very fine specimen of 'Ephraim Bonus with the Dark Ring' an almost incredible price, and the Baron E. de Rothschild paid, not long since, at the Holford sale, 1,900*l.* for an impression. It used to be usual to speak with wonder of the sum given for *Christ healing the Sick* (233), "the Hundred Guilder Print." The zeal and wealth of modern collectors have put that completely into the shade. Among compositions of many figures the incomparable impression now before us numbered 233b, which, like 233a, is from the first state of the plate, deserves all that can be said of it. No. 233d, a specimen of the second state of the print, is almost as fine. The Museum can boast not fewer than five fine impressions in the first and second states.

What we have said of the works which Mr. Colvin assigns to the first and second periods of Rembrandt's art in etching may, *mutatis mutandis*, be applied to the very fine and numerous specimens of the third period of the artist's life. Among these are *The Shell* (242), which rivals Hollar's 'Furs'; *The Goldsmith* (245); *Clement de Jonghe* (247); *Dr. Faustus* (251), which, at best, is but a *tour de force*; *Coppernol, the Writing Master* (262), both plates; *Jacob Haaring* (282), *Thomas Jacobsz Haaring* (283), *Arnold Tholinx* (284), and *L. W. Coppernol* (295). The last, and presumably the latest executed of the etchings now on view, is *The Woman with the Arrow* (297c), a choice impression of the third state of the plate.

Fine-Art Gossip.

BESIDES the additions which we mentioned last week, the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum, has been fortunate enough to secure a remarkably

interesting marble head, life size, of a warrior wearing a helmet exactly like those bronze helmets to be found in various museums, which could be thrust back upon the nape of the neck, leaving the face uncovered. It is similar to the helmet of the bust of Pericles already in the British Museum, which is a copy from a contemporary portrait by the famous Cresilas, the contemporary of Phidias, known for his statues of a wounded Amazon and of Diitrephes dying at Mycalessus pierced with arrows, to whom the newly acquired bust is ascribed. It is apparently a Greco-Roman copy of an original by Cresilas. Apart from this, the peculiar interest of the bust is due to the intensity of the sorrowful emotion expressed by the features. The execution of the face, its severe forms, and the thoroughness of the modelling throughout, attest the hand of a highly trained artist of a noble period, yet retain slight traces of an archaic style in the severity of treatment, which is very apparent in the eyelids. It has been suggested that we have here the head of a runner in the funeral games, perhaps of Patroclus.

IN the basement a very complete rearrangement, with certain important additions, has been recently completed by Dr. Murray, so that the visitor not only sees well-known works from the Townley and other collections under much more favourable circumstances than before, but he will find a number of antiquities, most of which, lying in the magazine of the Department for long periods, were unseen till now. In order to show certain Etruscan sarcophagi with what may be called their natural surroundings, two semi-dark and otherwise useless recesses have been fitted to resemble the rock tombs from which the sarcophagi came, and the walls are painted with marine emblems as well as two portraits. A large mosaic representing *Amphitrite*, attended by two female tritons, rising from the sea, and holding a mirror in which her by no means too beautiful features are reflected, has been raised from the floor, where it had remained since it arrived from Halicarnassus in 1856, and placed upright against the wall of the gallery, much to the advantage of all concerned. The gallery also comprises statuettes, cippi, altars, fountains, small panels in mosaic, a bath of granite, and various fragments of decorative sculpture.

FROM to-day, March 4th, until the 25th inst. there will be an exhibition of "Iceland Paintings" at the rooms of the Alpine Club.—A collection of pictures of rural life, by Mr. J. R. Reid, will be opened to the public in the gallery of the Fine-Art Society on Monday. The private view is fixed for to-day.—The same dates apply to Messrs. Dowdeswell's "Exhibition of Water Colours and Frescoes of Picturesque Holland," by Heer N. W. Jungmann, as well as to a collection of water-colour drawings of "The Scilly Isles and Land's End," by Mr. F. W. Sturge, which has been formed in the Graves Galleries, Pall Mall, and to Messrs. Bousod, Valadon & Co.'s spring exhibition of examples of Corot, C. F. Daubigny, N. Diaz, L. L'Hermitte, M. Maris, A. D. Peppercorn, and others, at 5, Waterloo Place, S.W.

THE London Sketch Club opens to-day (Saturday), at 175, Bond Street, an exhibition of members' works; and on the same day Mr. R. Gutekunst opens, at King Street, S.W., an exhibition of etchings by Mr. W. Strang.

MR. ERNEST LAW's work on 'Vandyck's Pictures at Windsor Castle,' which has been appearing in parts, issued to subscribers, will shortly be published by Messrs. George Bell & Sons complete. It consists of an historical and critical commentary on the works of the artist in the Royal Collection, accompanied with biographical sketches and anecdotes on the portraits. The text, which consists of some 110

closely printed folio pages, is illustrated by thirty large plates in photogravure.

THE obituary of the 24th ult. records the decease, at his chambers in Great Marlborough Street, in his eighty-third year, of Dr. William Hughes Willshire, late President of the Medical Society of London, who for many years was one of the physicians to Charing Cross Hospital, and had an extensive practice as a ladies' physician. Eventually Dr. Willshire abandoned his profession and devoted himself exclusively to the study of ancient prints, on which he became an authority of the first rank—so much so, in fact, that he was employed by the Trustees of the British Museum in preparing catalogues of certain sections of the contents of the Print Room, which were officially published as 'Catalogue of Early Prints in the British Museum, German and Flemish Schools,' 2 vols., with a number of facsimiles; and 'A Descriptive Catalogue of Playing and other Cards in the British Museum,' with numerous illustrations in monochrome and colours. Dr. Willshire likewise published 'An Introduction to the Study and Collection of Ancient Prints,' an elaborate work, which has attained to the honours of reprinting. He was also an amateur painter in oil colours whose diligence was remarkable.

MESSES. ALEXANDER, DANIEL & Co., of Bristol, sold on February 22nd the following drawings: Sir J. Gilbert, Scene from 'King John,' IV. ii., 48l.; Rosalind and Celia in the Forest of Arden, 52l.; Italian Piper and Attendant, 62l. V. Cole, Holmbury Hill, 100l. Rossetti's picture Jehanne la Pucelle fetched 90l.

MESSES. GRENFELL AND HUNT, after meeting with considerable success in their excavations at Kasr el Banât, have moved to the neighbouring Ptolemaic and early Roman site of Harit, which they have identified as the ancient Theadelphia. They expect to return to England about Easter.

THE Louvre has recently acquired the famous picture of 'L'Odalisque Couchée,' not only one of Ingres's largest cabinet paintings, but one of the most characteristic of his works. It was a commission from Queen Caroline of Naples, and it was, according to the signature, painted at Rome in 1814. Subsequently it belonged to Count Pourtales. This is the eighteenth work of Ingres which is in the Louvre. More than one of them is unfortunately hung; even 'La Source' itself might be in a better light.

M. FALGUIÈRE is at work on a statue of 'Le Drame Lyrique,' which is to be placed in the vestibule of the Opéra Comique, Paris.

M. JULES MONTIGNY, the Belgian landscape painter, is dead.

A LUCAS CRANACH Exhibition is to take place at Dresden from April 20th to September 15th. Some of the artist's finest pictures have been promised from Hungary.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Saturday Concert.
ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Popular Concert.

THE concerts were resumed at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, and the programme opened with Beethoven's Symphony in F, No. 8, of which a spirited rendering was given under the direction of Mr. Manns. The novelty was a symphonic poem 'Sister Helen,' by Mr. William Wallace, a British composer, who has already produced four important orchestral works at the Crystal Palace. The new tone poem is cleverly written and cleverly scored, and yet the impression which it creates is not altogether

satisfactory. It appears that Mr. Wallace originally wrote music to accompany a stage representation of Rossetti's 'Sister Helen' ballad. The performance was deferred, and the composer then arranged his stage music for the concert-room. Mr. C. A. Barry provided an excellent analysis of the symphonic poem; but it is one thing to read the meaning of this or that theme while the work is being performed, and another to perceive at once by help of the recited poem and certain stage action the connexion between tone and word. Most modern programme music suffers from a similar cause: it offers an intellectual puzzle rather than an artistic enjoyment. The third brief section (an *andante*) of Mr. Wallace's work appeals directly to the emotions, and the broad, plaintive phrase on which it is based presents effective contrast to the rest of the music, dramatic in character, and at times weakened by realistic effects. The performance, under the composer's direction, was excellent. Herr Ernst von Dohnányi played Liszt's Concerto in E flat with rare skill and beauty of tone; surely, however, an equally showy but more solid work could have been selected. We can understand and excuse the attraction which this concerto possesses for pianists such as MM. D'Albert, Stavenhagen, and some others who heard Liszt play it, and who studied it under him. Herr Dohnányi is too young to have been bewitched by the great pianist himself, and we should like to hear works from him in which there is more gold than gilt. We wonder, by the way, why Raff's Pianoforte Concerto in C minor, introduced here by Dr. Bülow many years ago, has never been heard since. It is a showy work, and, so far as we can remember, an interesting one. Mr. Ben Davies was the vocalist, and, though suffering from a cold, pleased his audience in Mr. F. H. Cowen's 'The Dream of Endymion' and songs by Brahms and Richard Strauss.

The Popular Concert on Monday was devoted, so far as the concerted music was concerned, to Haydn, Mozart, and Schumann. To Jaydn was assigned the place of honour in the programme. One of his quartets occasionally serves as a postlude—a piece to play the audience, or what remains of it, out. The quartets of Haydn may not equal in interest those of Beethoven, yet the patronizing fashion in which nowadays the father of instrumental music is sometimes mentioned is singularly unjust. There is, however, the comfort of knowing that it is adopted by those who know least of his works. The Haydn Quartet in G, Op. 17, No. 5, was delightfully interpreted by MM. Joachim, Inwards, Gibson, and Ludwig. The great violinist played, in conjunction with Miss Fanny Davies, Schumann's Sonata for pianoforte and violin in A minor, and the reading of the work by the two artists was most sympathetic. The middle movement, which was repeated by way of encore at the close of the performance, seemed to us a shade—only a shade—fast. Dr. Joachim ought, however, to know better than any one else the composer's intentions as to its proper tempo. The programme ended with Mozart's Pianoforte Trio in E. Mr. James McInnes was the vocalist. In his rendering of songs by Brahms he showed good taste.

Musical Gossip.

MASSENET's orchestral suite 'Scènes de la Féeerie,' composed in 1882, was performed for the first time in England at the concert given by the Strolling Players' Amateur Orchestral Society at Queen's Hall on Friday of last week. It opens with a pompous processional march, scored for a specially large band, including parts for E flat clarinet, alto saxophone, four trumpets, four trombones, and tuba. The next section, labelled 'Ballet,' is a warmly coloured dance movement; the third, 'Apparition,' contains a charming solo for the French horn; and the final 'Bacchanale,' descriptive of a hideous orgie in the nether world, is sufficiently strenuous and forceful. These pieces were carefully played under the guidance of Mr. Norfolk Megone. Apart from some unsteadiness on the part of the wind instrument performers, Dvorák's symphony 'From the New World' was also handled in a praiseworthy manner.

THE inauguration of the new theatre of the Guildhall School of Music took place last Friday week. Gounod's comic opera 'The Mock Doctor,' the piece chosen for the occasion, was performed by the students. Mr. Ernest Ford, the new opera director, acted efficiently as conductor.

BRAMH'S Third Symphony in F, Op. 90, was admirably played under Mr. Wood's direction at the Queen's Hall on Saturday afternoon. M. Vladimir de Pachmann was the pianist, and by his refined rendering of Chopin's Concerto in F minor fully maintained his high reputation as an interpreter of the Polish composer's music. Anovelty, an episode for orchestra ('Wüstenwanderung der Heiligen drei Könige') by E. Sjögren, the Swedish composer, proved more curious than interesting. Miss Isabel MacDougall sang with skill and taste the recitative and aria "Chiamo il mio ben" from Gluck's 'Orfeo,' an air of Scarlatti's arranged by Mr. J. A. Fuller Maitland, and an expressive song entitled 'Nirvana' by Mr. Arthur Hervey.

THERE was a large and enthusiastic audience at the Saturday Popular Concert. The numerous attractions, however, will easily account for this. There was Mozart's great Quartet in C (with Dr. Joachim as leader) and Beethoven's Trio in E flat, Op. 70, No. 2, with Mr. Borwick at the pianoforte. It is always a pleasure to hear Dr. Joachim play Tartini's Sonata in C minor, an old and well-established favourite. Mr. Borwick's solo was Bach's Partita in C minor, of which he gave a vigorous rendering. Madame Bertha Moore sang with her usual success.

HERR ERNST VON DOHNÁNYI gave a second pianoforte recital at St. James's Hall on Monday afternoon, and again he let us hear a genuine Bach clavier work—the 'Italian Concerto.' The reading was a trifle too modern, yet too much sentiment is far better than the cold manner in which Bach is often played by even great pianists. Schubert's Sonata in A minor, Op. 42, was a welcome number in the programme. Pianists generally fight shy of Schubert's sonatas on account of their length. Herr Dohnányi's rendering of the work was most characteristic and attractive. The opening of the second movement, however, seemed to us a trifle slow. The programme included Brahms's 'Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel's.' The variations were played as if the pianist had not quite settled in his own mind as to how they should be rendered, but the fugue was given with marked strength and brilliancy. Other short pieces by Brahms and some showy Liszt pieces completed the programme.

MILLE. ILONA EIBENSCHÜTZ gave her second pianoforte recital at St. James's Hall on Tuesday afternoon. She played Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, Op. 111. There were impulsive moments in the *allegro*, whereby the music was robbed of some of its dignity. Her rendering, however,

of the theme and variations deserves very high praise; the technique was of the neatest, and the tone throughout pure and expressive. Five Brahms pieces were performed with all due skill and earnestness. In Schumann's 'Kreisleriana,' a work which pianists have neglected of late, Mlle. Eibenschütz showed the influence of her illustrious teacher, yet at the same time independence of thought. There was a tendency in some of the numbers to hurry, excepting in No. 2, which at the opening was not up to time—not, at any rate, up to the tempo adopted by Madame Schumann. The last number of the set was given with marked precision and effective lights and shades.

HERR FRANZ LIEBICH gave a pianoforte recital at the Salle Erard on Wednesday afternoon, with the assistance of Miss A. Ribolla and MM. Mewburn-Levien and L. Lobell. Herr Liebich has strong, swift, safe fingers, but his playing lacks charm and refinement. There was much—at times too much—of the letter, and scarcely anything of the spirit; and this, especially for Chopin's music, to which the pianist devoted his attention, proved fatal as regards the effect produced.

A QUINTET in G for pianoforte and strings and five *intermezzi* for pianoforte, violin, and cello by M. Richard Mandl, born at Brossitz, in Moravia, were produced at the Elderhorst Concert at the Steinway Hall on Wednesday afternoon. The composer, who studied at the Vienna Conservatorium, has had an opera recently performed at Prague. The quintet is a well-written work, full of engaging melody and neat workmanship. The *intermezzi* are brief, and of light, pleasing character. In these the composer himself played the pianoforte part. The programme concluded with Dvorak's Quartet in F. Miss Marie Busch was the vocalist.

MR. J. A. FULLER MAITLAND gave an interesting harpsichord recital on Wednesday afternoon in Lord Leighton's studio, for the benefit of the Leighton House Fund.

SIR HUBERT PARRY has written an overture and incidental music for John Oliver Hobbes's 'A Repentance,' produced at St. James's Theatre on Tuesday evening. The overture is a clever, effective work, which no doubt will soon find its way into the concert-room.

MR. ALBERT FRANSSELLA will give three chamber concerts for wind instruments at the Queen's Hall on Monday evenings, March 13th, April 17th, and May 15th. The programmes will include several novelties.

MR. ROBERT NEWMAN informs us that, in addition to the 'Resurrection of Lazarus,' he has now secured the right of first performance in England of Don Lorenzo Perosi's 'Transfiguration of Christ' and 'Resurrection of Christ.' These three works will be produced at his London Musical Festival, Queen's Hall, between May 8th and 13th. Sir Hubert Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens,' Dr. C. V. Stanford's 'The Revenge,' and Mr. F. C. Cowen's 'Ode to the Passions,' will also be included in the festival programmes.

MR. ERNEST CAVOUR has arranged with the Bohemian String Quartet to give one, and only one, concert at St. James's Hall, on March 21st.

A SPECIAL performance of Wagner music was given in St. Mark's Square by the municipal orchestra of Venice on February 13th, to commemorate the death of the master, which took place in the Palazzo Vendramini seventeen years ago. In the evening of the same day the bust of Wagner was crowned with a laurel wreath in the Teatro Fenice, while at the opera-house a performance was given of 'Die Walküre,' under the direction of Signor Vitale. The anniversary of Wagner's death was observed at Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Leipzig, Prague, Vienna, and other continental cities. There was no concert or stage performance here in London

to commemorate the event. There was a symphony concert at Queen's Hall on February 11th; but the programme included only one Wagner piece—an excerpt from 'Das Rheingold.'

LÉO DÉLIBES's 'Le Roi l'a dit' has just been revived with great success at La Monnaie, Brussels. It was played there only once previously, on April 9th, 1888.

'LA PRINCESSE D'AUVERGNE' of M. Jan Blockx has achieved a new triumph at the Hague. This is one of the Covent Garden novelties for the coming season.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

SUN. Sunday Concert Society, 3.30 and 7, Queen's Hall.
MON. Madame Norcross's Grand Morning Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.
TUES. Monday Popular Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
TUES. Highbury Philharmonic Society, 8, The Athenæum, Highbury New Park.
WED. Elderhorst Chamber Concert, 8, Steinway Hall.
WED. St. James's Ballad Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.
THURS. Philharmonic Concert, 8, Queen's Hall.
THURS. Royal Choral Society, 8, Albert Hall.
SAT. Crystal Palace Concert, 3.
SAT. Symphony Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.
SAT. Mozart Society, 3, Portman Rooms.
SAT. Saturday Popular Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Ben Jonson's 'Alchemist,' presented by the Elizabethan Stage Society.

It requires courage in these days to affirm that a play of the Shakespearean epoch has been over-praised, and yet this is true of a good many works of Tudor and Stuart times, and, among others, of 'The Alchemist.' As the eulogists include contemporaries, such as Herrick and Shirley, and subsequent writers from Steele to Coleridge and Lamb, Ben Jonson may survive the carping of modern criticism. With a curious perseverance and fidelity, however, the public hissed the first performance and the last before that now given. Most that eulogists of an earlier date say may be accepted without establishing the fact that 'The Alchemist' is a great play. The people who hissed it in King James's or King Charles's days were doubtless, as Herrick describes them, ignorant, and the play itself is, as Steele describes it in the *Tatler*, "an example of Ben's extensive genius and penetration into the passions and follies of mankind." In this respect it cannot easily be over-estimated. While admirable as a satire and unsurpassed as a picture of manners, it is, however, deficient in almost everything that makes a great play. It has scarcely a single character that is not contemptible; it paints a world of rogues and fools without a redeeming trait; not one ray of honesty steals into its plot, not one touch of love or affection redeems or elevates piece or characters, not one line of poetry such as lights up the work of Ben's rival Dekker is to be found. Lamb, dwelling upon the imaginings, sensual or cupidinous, of Sir Epicure Mammon, says, in his absolutely unequalled style, "What a 'towering bravery' there is in his sensuality! He affects no pleasure under a sultan. It is as if 'Egypt with Assyria strove in luxury.'" Some of Sir Epicure Mammon's speeches are fine and imaginative, and with the derisive comments of Surly and the stimulating suggestions of Face, they constitute very comic and vivacious scenes. Take, however, the dozen best lines:—

I will have all my beds blown up; not stuffed;
Down is too hard: and there, mine oval room
Filled with such pictures as Tiberius took
From Elephantis, and dull Aretine

But coldly imitated. Then, my glasses
Cut in more subtle angles, to disperse
And multiply the figures, as I walk
Naked between my *succuba*. My mists
I'll have of perfume, vapoured 'bout the room,
To lose ourselves in; and my baths, like pits,
To fall into, from whence we will come forth
And roll us dry in gossamer and roses.

Let any one who wishes to recognize the difference between inspiration and commonplace, between creative work and piled-up rhetoric, compare with this and other similar passages the revelling in wealth of Marlowe's Jew of Malta. When Barabas has "purst" the gold from Persian ships, from Spanish oils and wines of Greece, he breaks forth, in a spirit of true magnificence:—

Fie, what a trouble 'tis to count this trash!

He meditates how one only of his precious stones

May serve in peril of calamity
To ransom great kings from captivity.

We may not further quote, but we commend heartily the comparison we have indicated. Even stronger will be the interest if for the wealth of the Jew of Malta we substitute the dreams of Faustus. One is none the less glad to have seen a play which presumably no living playgoer had previously witnessed, the occasion being as unique as it was interesting. It is pleasant to say that the elocution was, as a rule, good—better, even, than is often heard on the regular stage. To most of those present the sight of the Apothecaries' Hall, in which the representation was given, with its portraits and other objects of interest, constituted an additional charm.

Dramatic Gossip.

'A REPENTANCE,' a one-act drama by John Oliver Hobbes, produced on Tuesday at the St. James's Theatre, tells in sufficiently nebulous fashion a story of the Carlist war. It is well mounted, and well played by Messrs. Alexander and H. B. Irving and Miss Julie Opp, but is so obscure in motive as to be practically void of significance.

MR. ALEXANDER's future arrangements as announced include six important novelties, consisting of 'In Days of Old,' by Mr. E. Rose; 'Rupert of Hentzau,' by Anthony Hope; 'A Debt of Honour,' by Mr. Sydney Grundy; 'A Man of Forty,' by Mr. Walter Frith; 'Osborn and Ursyne,' by John Oliver Hobbes; and 'Paolo and Francesca,' by Mr. Stephen Phillips.

MISS ADA REHAN, who is at present playing in New York Mrs. John Wood's part in 'The Great Ruby,' has been engaged for the leading rôle in the autumn drama at Drury Lane.

'A COURT SCANDAL' at the Court will in due course be succeeded by a comedy by Mr. R. C. Carton.

'THE TYRANNY OF TEARS,' by Mr. Haddon Chambers, which is forthcoming at the Criterion, though in three acts, is, it is said, for five characters only. Four of these will consist of Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Bishop, Miss Mary Moore, and Miss Maude Millett.

MR. WILSON BARRETT will produce at the Lyceum in September a piece by himself and Mr. Louis N. Parker.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY is seeking a theatre to which to remove 'The Only Way' when, on April 10th, he is compelled to leave the Lyceum. In this piece Mr. Sydney Brough has replaced Mr. Ben Webster as the Comte de Fauchet.

MR. HALL CAINE's 'Christian' is to be produced at the Duke of York's, with Mr. Herbert Waring as John Storm and Miss Evelyn Millard as Glory Quayle.

It appears that 'Change Alley,' by Messrs. Louis N. Parker and Murray Carson, will immediately succeed 'The Three Musketeers' whenever that piece is withdrawn from the Garrick. 'Nell Gwynne,' which we last week mentioned, comes second on the list.

The next drama at Drury Lane will be by Mr. Cecil Raleigh, without any collaborator.

MR. ROBERT TABOR's condition still inspires uneasiness, and there seems some doubt if he will be able to take part in the production of 'Robespierre.'

At the annual April festival at Stratford-on-Avon, beginning April 17th, the 'Second Part of King Henry VI.' will be produced by Mr. F. R. Benson. Mr. Benson is also credited with the intention of playing Hamlet in its integrity, a formidable task, which, we fancy, has not been essayed since the Restoration.

The death of Miss Sarah Thorne, a few days before a benefit was to be given her at the St. James's Theatre, naturally arrests the promised performance. Miss Thorne was better known as the manager of the Margate Theatre and other houses than as a performer. She gave practical instruction to dramatic aspirants, and many of the younger generation of actors fitted themselves at the little Margate house for appearance on the London stage.

A REPORT that Mr. Edward Sothorn had secured 'Grierson's Way' for America has been circulated, but is inaccurate. Negotiations for its purchase were begun, but have been arrested.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. S.—H. R. B.—L. & Co.—E. D.—J. S. C.—E. L. W.—H. L.—J. D. B.—received.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

Erratum.—No. 3719, p. 142, col. 3, line 23 from bottom, for "Stanford" read *Stanwood*.

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Editorial Communications should be addressed to "The Editor"—Advertisements and Business Letters to "The Publisher"—at the Office, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Printed by JOHN EDWARD FRANCIS, Athenæum Press, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C., and Published by JOHN C. FRANCIS at Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Agents for SCOTLAND, Messrs. Bell & Bradburne and Mr. John Menzies, Edinburgh.—Saturday, March 4, 1899.